Kill costs courses millions

BY PETER BLAIS

The winter freeze cost Southern courses millions of dollars, forcing many to reseed greens and some to close for as long as two months.

The cold temperatures that struck in early December killed much of the Bermudagrass on courses from Texas to South Carolina. Unfortunately the problem went undetected until spring when the overseeded ryegrass began to die out and the Bermuda traditionally starts to grow. Only this time the Bermuda never greened up.

"It just stayed dirt brown once the rye died off," said Gilbert Medrano, head superintendent at First Colony's new public course in Houston. "The damage was so bad First Colony closed its doors May 29 and wasn't scheduled to re-open until July 26. It cost $25,000 to reseed all 18 greens. Assistant pro Scott Redblake pegged lost business at another $180,000.

Most courses were able to remain open, but had to resort to temporary greens. Nearby Sweetwater Country Club in Sugarland was "pretty severely" damaged but continued play on temporaries, grubbing them up, fumigated, contoured and resprigged. We planted June 22 and they look good. They are about 80 percent covered."}

Continued on page 31

S&L crisis hits golf

Let's make a deal goes nationwide...

BY PETER BLAIS

Golf courses nationwide are available at bargain-basement prices thanks to a savings and loan crisis that has left several courses in the hands of the Resolution Trust Corporation. In the Phoenix, Ariz., area alone, two courses are for sale. Superstition Springs in Mesa and Happy Trails Resort in Surprise were the property of Western Savings, which was placed into receivership May 31, according to Western Savings Vice President of Real Estate Investment and Sales Paul Timm. They are being marketed by the RTC, which was established to sell off closed savings and loan properties.

Superstition Springs is a 646-acre project undertaken by Western Savings and Loan Association in the early 1970s. The 18-hole Greg Nash-designed 18-hole Greg Nash-designed

Continued on page 27

...as foreigners, pensions pick up slack

BY PETER BLAIS

Foreign investors and pension funds are replacing beleagured savings and loans and commercial banks as major funding sources for existing courses and new course construction.

"With the S&L crisis, those institutions are basically out of the golf course business. A lot of money used to come from the S&Ls. Now they're history," said Stanton Abrams, president of Senior Tour Players Inc., a Boston-based company involved in golf course communities and representing many famous Senior players. "Commercial banks have had a lot of problems with bad loans. So that money has basically dried up, too."

Foreign investment

Led by the Japanese, foreign investors are now filling a large part of the funding void. The Japanese have bought a worker at Sweetwater Country Club in Sugarland, Texas removes bermudagrass sod from a green damaged by this winter's record cold. The facility was among numerous Southern courses that suffered extensive winter kill reseeding greens to be torn up and replanted. The extent of the damage wasn't known in many areas until the bermudagrass emerged from dormancy this spring.

Continued on page 26

Seed harvest excellent

BY MARK LESLIE

A bumper crop looms this month, creating good and bad news for people in the turf seed and golf industries.

"This is shaping up as the best crop in a number of years," said Scott Patterson, vice president in charge of turf seed at Peterson Seed Co. in Savage, Minn. "There is a lot of acreage. We had good burns last fall. Growing conditions were excellent last winter and good this spring. And now they're out and dry like they need to be for harvest."

Dennis Hays, executive vice president of the Oregon Seed Trade Association, whose members grow the vast majority of seed used on golf courses, continued on page 19
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Japanese firm renews on Bay Hill purchase

BY PETER BLAIS

The $46 million sale of The Bay Hill Club in Orlando, Fla., to WDI Systems of Japan has apparently fallen through and the Japanese firm has sued to recover its $3 million down payment from TBHC, Inc., led by controlling shareholder Arnold Palmer.

The club, closed on the 27-hole, Dick Wilson-designed course, home to the Nestle Invitational each March, was scheduled for May 21. But WDI said it did not present a significant hazard. The selling shareholders had filed suit to recover its $3 million down payment from TBHC, Inc., led by controlling shareholder Arnold Palmer.

The selling shareholders always knew that the fact of replacement was not planned to occur before the time of closing; rather, it was planned to occur after the time of closing. Concerning the income tax allegations, WDHC said the club's financial records are audited each year by one of the leading certified public accounting firms in the United States.

No hearing date on WDI's suit had been set as of mid-July, according to Palmer's administrative assistant.

$500M Grand Lair plan under negotiations

Three Japanese companies are negotiating to develop a $500 million golf resort on John's Island near Charleston, S.C. The Grand Lair development will include three 27-hole courses, an 800-room hotel and million-dollar lots for Japanese businessowners.

The three interested backers include three Japanese banks, the Charleston News & Courier quoted Donald Wizeman, president of Dai-Ichi Corp., a Japanese real estate company and Grand Lair promoter. A presentation to investors is expected in late summer. Groundbreaking could take place this fall with a tentative opening scheduled for the spring of 1995.

Wizeman has compared the proposed development to a Disney World for golfers. Among the amenities are three 27-hole courses, including one billed as the hardest in the world; a "water experience" with a giant pool featuring rock and caves; and a training center for up-and-coming golfers.

The Japanese are also reportedly interested in two projects in Hilton Head worth a combined $250 million.

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246 Sunrye

- Very dark blue-green colored turf-type variety.
- Dwarfed growth habit than other varieties in overseeding trials in Palm Springs area.
- Improved resistance to leaf spot, brown patch, and stem rust.
- Contains a moderately high level of endophyte to enhance insect resistance.
The Clark County (Va.) Board of Supervisors has approved a golf course along the Shenandoah River despite the protests of environmentalists and silent opposition of 25 Trappist monks who lived across the river. The supervisors voted 4-1 in favor of the special-use permit to build the $2.5 million course scheduled to open in the spring of 1992. Their environmental concerns were largely satisfied by the developer's integrated pest management plan.

The 151-acre course sits opposite the Holy Cross Abbey where the monks "bake bread to support a contemplative lifestyle based on silence and solitude," according to the Washington Post. The Natural Resources Defense Council and several local groups vigorously fought the proposal, although it was often portrayed as a showdown between developers and the monks. The monks remained silent on whether the course would force them to move.

Verplank and Wood partners in design firm

Touring professionals Willie Wood and Scott Verplank have formed a golf course design firm and already have a course lined up. Wood and Verplank "feel that golf course design needs to get away from target golf and return to traditional concepts," Wood said.

Wood-Verplank Design Consultants has signed a design consulting agreement with Oxford Development Corp. of Oklahoma City, Okla., and architect Randy Heckencamper of Tulsa, Okla., for a daily-fee course in Oklahoma City.

"We are excited about our first design project, which will be ready for play in the fall of 1991, and we are looking forward to future projects," Verplank said.

They are headquartered at 6305 Waterford Blvd. in Oklahoma City.

Brighton Crest cited as top community plan

Brighton Crest, a planned golf course community in Fresno, Calif., won the Gold Nugget Grand Award for Best Planned Community Site Plan over 100 Acres at the Pacific Coast Builders Conference in San Francisco in June. Judges David Jensen Associates of Denver, Colo., "made good use of the natural topography and preserved the site's natural quality."

An 18-hole course, which architect Johnny Miller says is "breathtaking and challenging," is a cornerstone of the development which will include additional courses, homes, shopping facilities, boating and horseback riding.

Millerton New Town Development is developer of the project.

USDA honors Dr. Funk for work in turf breeding

The U.S. Department of Agriculture bestowed the Distinguished Service Award in June on Dr. C. Reed Funk, of Rutgers University's State Agricultural Experiment Station.

Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter presented Funk the award for "distinguished scientific achievements in turf breeding and outstanding contributions to the turf industry and the general public."

At ceremonies in Washington, D.C., Yeutter cited Funk for elevating turfgrass breeding to "an appreciated and respected status."

Yeutter said Funk's impact on the turf industry has been unparalleled, and mentioned Funk's development of the perennial ryegrass Manhattan, Rebel tall fescue, and the turf-type cultivar of Poa trivialis — three "landmark cultivars."

Funk also developed the first successful method of producing Kentucky bluegrass cultivars by means of interspecific hybridization of apomictic parents. More recently he and his students have been involved in the discovery that endophytic fungi are associated with many instances of enhanced performance in perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, hard fescue and chewings fescue.

With his students, Funk developed a number of turf-type perennial ryegrasses containing high levels of endophyte.

SIUE pursuing proposals

The Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Planning and Budget Council has recommended that President Earl Lasserow obtain proposals from potential developers for the school's controversial golf course. Lasserow and university officials have begun putting together stipulations for a proposal request to develop the 305-acre tract that includes the former Mississippi River Festival site.

Preliminary stipulations require no university funds be spent to build or manage the facility, reduced greens fees for students and employees and the use of natural fertilizers, according to the Alton Telegraph. Acceptable proposals will be turned over to the chancellor and voted on by the SIU board of trustees.

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Charcoal looms as high-use product

Charcoal could become a growth product in Japan where it is being used to improve soils and absorb chemicals on golf courses. Japan's charcoal production peaked at 2.22 million tons in 1956, but has declined steadily since, according to The Japan Economic Journal. Today it is used primarily for cookouts by campers and yakitori (grilled chicken) chefs.

Charcoal is a low-tech product made produced by heating wood (often scrap wood) in the absence of air. Water is driven off, leaving behind innumerable pores and giving it enormous porosity. The pores trap various kinds of molecules making it an ideal absorbent for golf courses.

According to Japan's Forestry Agency, charcoal could be used to absorb chemical residues from grass that otherwise could pollute ground water. It can also improve certain types of acidic soil. The calcium and potassium in charcoal provide a favorable environment for bacteria that enrich the soil with nutrients used by plants. Charcoal also improves soil's capacity to retain water. Approximately 17,000 tons of charcoal are used annually to improve poor soil conditions in Japan.

Cleveland votes to remodel Manakiki

The Cleveland Metroparks Board of Park Commissioners has voted to improve 76-year-old Manakiki Golf Course at a cost that could reach $1 million.

Architect Craig Scheiner of Dublin is designing a master rehabilitation plan for the Donald Ross course that could include a continuous cart path. Scheiner said he will concentrate on the course's drainage problems as well as the need for bigger tees and more hazards.

The analysis should be completed by mid-August with work beginning by October.

The facelift is expected to take two to four years to complete.

Marietta down for one year

The Marietta (Ga.) Country Club will close for up to a year while a $1.8 million reconstruction takes place after the city takes over the club in September.

The city is purchasing the club for $8.6 million and will issue a revenue bond for $9 million to cover the purchase and reconstruction costs.

The course will close Sept. 30 and remain so for the next 10 to 12 months. The city manager sent out requests for proposals to design and/or manage the course. Responses were due back July 25.

LPGA complex gains approval in Florida town

The Ladies Professional Golf Association and the city of Daytona Beach, Fla., have finally reached an agreement on the development of a new LPGA complex, including two new courses and a resort hotel.

The potential economic benefit to the area could reach $81 billion over the next 20 to 35 years, developers predicted.

The first championship course is tentatively scheduled for completion by Dec. 31, 1992, and the second a year later. The courses, LPGA headquarters, 225-room hotel, mixed residential and commercial development will be located on 3,700 acres located between Interstate 95 and 11th Street.

Consolidated Tomoka and Indigo Development Inc. own the property and donated 350 acres for the courses, LPGA headquarters, practice facilities and clubhouse.

"We're just delighted," LPGA Commissioner Bill Blue told the Daytona Beach News, adding the agreement is "the second step. The first was getting us to come here, and the third will be getting the effort underway."

Plans are to begin work immediately on a concept plan, seek proposals for a possible LPGA Hall of Fame, and select a course architect. The city will select the designer with input from the LPGA.

Cushman grants scholarships

Cushman Inc. has awarded $250 scholarships to two students in Lake City (Fla.) Community College's School of Golf Course Operations.

Nancy L. Harris and Arthur W. Faris of Lake City received scholarships and the scholarships to help them attend the three-year program that prepares students for work as golf course superintendents and assistants.

Cushman service personnel have provided instructional assistance to LCCC for more than 20 years, teaching basic golf course mechanics students the skills to maintain and repair turf maintenance equipment.
Skyline changes due, says AGC
American Golf Corp. plans improvements to one of its newest facilities, Skyline Woods Country Club in Omaha, Neb. The Santa Monica, Calif.-based company will concentrate on completing the irrigation system. The cost is estimated at $200,000.
American Golf bought the course, which opened in 1992 as Chapel Hill Country Club, from Dennis and Sebastian Circo in May.

American expertise in golf course design and management, master planning, water management and other areas will be evident in the second annual Golf Course Europe exhibition and conference this fall. Golf Course Europe organizers, Exponox of Holland, have signed on American speakers in nearly every session of the conference, which will be held Nov. 28-30 at Le Parc des Expositions du Bourget in Paris, France.
American Society of Golf Course Architects President Dan Maples of Pinehurst, N.C., and ex-President Ed Seay of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., will speak at the design and construction session. Maples will discuss how America can help Europe in its golf development boom, while Seay, of Palmer Course Design Co., will speak on course design.
During a session on the future for golf, National Golf Foundation President Joseph Beddie will talk on building courses for the future. James McLoughlin of The McLoughlin Group in Pleasantville, N.Y. and Michael C. Rippey, president of Can-Am Golf Enterprises, Inc. in Michigan City, Ind., will speak at a session on golf project management.
McLoughlin, who has consulted on projects the world over, will talk on master planning for golf course hotel and resort developments. Rippey will speak on estimating and controlling course construction costs. Also, Otterbine Barbe Inc. President Charles Barbe will talk on water quality management, Toro Vice President of Agronomists James Watson on turfgrass management and water conservation techniques, Larry Rodgers of Larry Rodgers Design Group in Denver, Colo., on types of irrigation systems, and Loft Seed Director of Research Dr. Richard Hurley on choosing the right seed mixture.
Ellen MacGillivray, Exponox's organizer of the conference, has also added workshops this year for the European Design Group.
A key speaker for the greenkeepers will be Gordon W. Witteveen, superintendent of two 18-hole courses and nine-hole facility for the Board of Trade in Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. Witteveen, whose courses are in a reputation business, is a company that trains European students to be golf course superintendents, will give a variety of tips of the trade.

Koch forms management, design firm
Professional golfer Gary Koch has formed Gary Koch Golf, a company that will focus on golf course design and ownership, golf facility management and development of golf course residential communities.
Koch, who will serve as president, said the Tampa, Fla., company's primary emphasis will be in Florida, but that golf projects elsewhere in the United States and in Europe are also being discussed.
Tony Mattera, formerly a senior executive with a major Florida bank, will serve as chief operating officer.
"I am really excited about this opportunity to expand my career in golf," said Koch winner of six PGA Tour events. "I have been working towards starting this company for over a year now."
"I will continue to follow my normal playing schedule on the PGA Tour while developing new business opportunities."
Gary Koch also announced a working relationship with Can-Am Golf Enterprises, Inc. and its golf course architecture division, Hurdzan Design Group.
Can-Am Golf, a golf course management company headquartered in Michigan City, Ind., operates four courses in the United States and Canada and is scheduled to open a fifth course in August.
Three more are under development — one in the United States and two in Canada.
Koch said Can-Am will support his company in all areas related to course maintenance and management.
Mattera said: "Our goal has been to assemble the resources necessary to take any golf course project from design through opening day and beyond. Our association with Hurdzan Design and Can-Am will enable us to do that."
The company also is looking to acquire, lease, or enter into management contracts on existing golf facilities in Florida, and will consider joint venture projects with real-estate or resort developers.
NCA announces environmental insurance

The National Club Association has announced availability of a "comprehensive" private club Environmental Impairment Liability insurance package.

Developed with Front Royal Insurance Co., a specialty insurer in Virginia, NCA's EIL program is designed for all types of private clubs. The package, available only to NCA members clubs, covers underground storage tanks and off-premise releases as well as director liability for such releases.

According to NCA President George S. Squibb, "NCA has been convinced that environmental concerns are the watchwords of the 1990s. Private clubs are challenged to provide state-of-the-art compliance, risk management and risk transfer (insurance) methods to respond to the challenges of environmental liability.

"NCA's EIL policy is a direct response to that challenge. We believe our EIL program will be a distinct contribution to the entire club community."

John Meletski, chairman of Front Royal Group, said: "We have ... developed these path-breaking environmental coverages in partnership with NCA. Based on numerous test assessments of private clubs, we have developed what the insurance industry regards as a very comprehensive pollution liability insurance program.

"We believe NCA clubs constitute good environmental risks, and we also believe that the process of qualifying for and purchasing NCA's EIL policy will further reduce risks associated with environmental hazards." John Cole Gayle, an NCA director and chairman of the association's Programs Committee, said: "We are convinced that private clubs, in the very near future, will consider EIL insurance as important — maybe even more so — than any other means of protecting club and individual assets. The responsible private club should be a community leader in managing natural resources and protecting public health."

Three policies are available, depending on the type of club and the facilities/risks to be underwritten:

- Underground Storage Tank (UST) policy. If a club has one or more USTs, it will be required by EPA to present "evidence of financial responsibility" by October 1991. In the coming years, a club's UST program will have to comply with certain federal, state and local testing, monitoring and remediation regulations. Club liability for UST releases exists regardless of regulations, beginning with installation of the UST.
- Coverage for off-premise releases. All clubs should liability for pesticide, herbicide, fungicide, rodenticide, and even uses of petroleum and cleaning products. Club employees are probably covered by Worker's Compensation Insurance, but clubs are seldom covered under their general liability policy for gradual or sudden and accidental releases affecting the surrounding community. This policy provides that coverage, assuring clubs that off-premise environmental liabilities are adequately underwritten.
- Directors and Officers (D&O). Club D&O policies normally contain a "pollution exclusion," meaning that D&O policies will not provide defense or indemnity for legal actions resulting from environmental incidents.

NCA Director of Marketing Legare Van Ness has further information at the association headquaters in Washington, D.C.

NCA announces environmental insurance

One left dead in Mohawk Indian affair

Negotiations were continuing at the end of July between the Canadian government and Mohawk Indians in an uprising that has cost the life of one police officer.

A gun battle broke out on July 11 between Quebec police and Mohawks trying to keep ancestral lands from being turned into a golf course.

Indians barricaded the road into Club Golf d'Oka, a small town 50 miles west of Montreal. When about 100 policemen in riot gear stormed the barricade, Cpl. Marcel Lemay, 31, was shot and killed.

The Mohawks claim a treaty with the federal government gave them the land on which a nine-hole addition to Oka is planned.

Government officials say the Province of Quebec, not the federal government, has control over the land. Barricades remained in place in late July.

Huff at Rutgers

Dr. David R. Huff has rejoined Rutgers University as the first Post-Doctorate Fellow in Turfgrass Breeding — a fellowship established through a donation from the Cultivated Sod Association of New Jersey.

The association donated $25,000 and has promised additional support for the Cultivated Sod EIL program to be designed.

Huff's research will focus on the reproductive biology of Kentucky bluegrass and clarifying the identification of the Phakopsora fungus.

Prior to joining Rutgers, he was director of plant breeding for B Four Corp. in Houston, Texas.

A native of Michigan, he earned masters' and PhD degrees from the University of California - Davis, then was a post-doctorate research associate under Dr. Mill Engelke at the Texas A&M Research Station in Dallas.

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Return to ‘traditional’ course design

It was exciting to watch the British Open this year. The nearly flawless play of Nick Faldo was most commendable. However, the more I learn about golf course design, the physical make-up and layout of a golf course attract my attention more than the great play of world-class professionals.

The Old Course at St. Andrews is truly what golf was meant to be and, in my opinion, will return to its former glory. For as the battle for survival reasons as much as humanitarian, the war may be won in far-off laboratories and test fields. That is where turf scientists at universities and private companies ply their trade, where they strive to breed the best turf available, to conquer whatever might attack their charges.

Sound overstated? Perhaps. But golf is a mega-industry that makes billions of dollars a year for the courses and the businesses surrounding them, from resorts to restaurants and hotels. And crucial to the golf industry is healthy turf. As environmentalists push to outlaw chemical treatment of turf and burning where turf seed is grown, seed producers and others must look ahead. Indeed, they are looking ahead, getting a jump on possible legislation that would imperil them.

King Solomon wrote: “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.” (Proverbs 6:10-11) And again in Proverbs 13:24, he wrote: “Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.” As evidenced at field days held this summer in the Northwest, the seed industry is not slumbering. It is taking a lead position—for survival reasons as much as humanitarian. Research is paying off. Jacklin Seed Co. and Turf-Seed Inc. unveiled turf seed varieties that are more tolerant of heat or cold. Whatever problem might exist out there in the Land of Turf, be assured turf experts are advancing the cause of turf survival. It’s no little matter—in quality of play for golf courses and in dollars for the turf seed industry.

Other company and university researchers are daily working to produce grasses that require less water, or that grow more slowly and thus need less mowing, or that are more tolerant of heat or cold. The bottom line is, he who produces the best of a product lives. As American essayist Logan Pearsall Smith wrote early this century, “How can they say my life isn’t a success? Have I not for more than 60 years got enough to eat and escaped being eaten?”

Researchers know Solomon was right

BY MARK LESLIE

Pests and diseases, droughts and floods, extreme cold and extreme heat. All could endanger quality turf— the kind that golf courses absolutely need.

But could is the operative word here. For as the battle for survival is being waged where our feet tread, the war may be won in far-off laboratories and test fields. That is where turf scientists at universities and private companies ply their trade, where they strive to breed the best turf available, to conquer whatever might attack their charges.

Sound overstated? Perhaps. But golf is a mega-industry that makes billions of dollars a year for the courses and the businesses surrounding them, from resorts to restaurants and hotels. And crucial to the golf industry is healthy turf. As environmentalists push to outlaw chemical treatment of turf and burning where turf seed is grown, seed producers and others must look ahead. Indeed, they are looking ahead, getting a jump on possible legislation that would imperil them.

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Turf industry must plan ahead

To the Editor:

I read with a great deal of interest your commentary (in June) on recent actions in Japan to ban or prevent use of chemicals on golf courses. I agree with your conclusion that this will become a problem here in the United States (Vermont and Green Point, Fla., for example).

The environmentalist agenda is to not only prevent chemical use in golf course management but to ban uses in all non-agricultural areas. Their argument is that chemical use is of no value to society, it's cosmetic, not a human benefit, and society would be better off if everything were left to "Nature's Way."

We in the turf industry must plan now to educate the public, our legislators and the news media, that turf and its management have a value in our society and those who use chemicals do so in a responsible manner.

Our actions in product stewardship, education, and research will be the foundation of our argument. Maybe it's not so much a helmet we need but a plan to address these issues as they occur and not react with flapping arms and shouts of dismay.

Sincerely,
B.R. Liles, director
Turf and Ornamental Dept.
Ciba-Geigy
Greensboro, N.C.

Thank you for book report

To the Editor:


We don't know if you are a golfer or just spend your time writing about it — but if a golfer, our best wishes for many rounds in 1990 about eight strokes below your handicap.

If you are not a golfer, you don't know what you are missing — although at times you might wish you had taken up the game to get rid of frustrations (or does the game increase them?).

Best wishes, and many thanks to you and to the great Golf Course News.

Sincerely,
Spencer H. Davis Jr.
Harwood Associates
North Brunswick, N.J.

For The Golf Course Superintendent Who Has Everything.

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<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Treatment Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RED THREAD</td>
<td>2 oz./1,000 sq. ft. every 14-21 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POWDERY MILDEW</td>
<td>1-2 oz./1,000 sq. ft. every 14-28 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNOW MOLD</td>
<td>4 oz./1,000 sq. ft. applied late fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUST</td>
<td>1-2 oz./1,000 sq. ft. every 14-28 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTHRACNOSE</td>
<td>2 oz./1,000 sq. ft. every 14-28 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROWN PATCH</td>
<td>2-4 oz./1,000 sq. ft. every 10-21 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER PATCH</td>
<td>4 oz./1,000 sq. ft. applied April-June, or according to local recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOLLAR SPOT</td>
<td>3 oz./1,000 sq. ft. every 28 days.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only Banner lets you prescribe just the right preventive treatment for so broad a spectrum of turfgrass diseases. For even more helpful information, contact your turf products distributor.
Every year the algae returns. And the headaches return. Until now, there has been no permanent, effective solution.

**A toxic waste dump.**

Chemicals are nothing more than a temporary measure. Copper Sulfate is expensive. And the heavy metal eventually sinks to the bottom, leaving a hazardous and toxic waste.

**Downed irrigation systems.**

All algae are born with one mission: to shut down your irrigation system as thoroughly as possible. And cost you a fortune in wasted man-hours attending to clogged filters, valves and screens. Fouled sprinklers. Blown irrigation pipes. And irate club members who can't understand how you could allow brown spots on the fairways. Algae mats on the water. And such a stench in the air!

**The Toro AIRE-O₂ aeration system annihilates algae.**

Toro, the industry leader in water resources management, brings you the AIRE-O₂ aerator. A totally effective solution based on a scientific, ecological understanding of the problem and its cause.
ALGAE PROBLEMS AWAY.

As ponds age, oxygen is depleted. Algae proliferate simply because their natural enemies suffocate. Fertilizer runoff and effluent water only worsen this anaerobic condition.

**Circulation is the key.**

By powerfully blowing oxygen horizontally into your pond, the AIRE-O₂ aerator promotes a steady current that breaks up stagnant water, increases the oxygen level, and disperses it throughout the pond. And your pond water becomes crystal clear. Naturally.

With our patented flow linkage process, the AIRE-O₂ system can oxygenate and circulate any pond—no matter what its configuration—eliminating all places where algae may hide.

And that means we can turn your eyesore into a thing of beauty in no time. For all time.

For more information write: The Toro Company, 5825 Jasmine Street, Riverside, CA 92504. Or call (714) 688-9221.
Tom Bator had just rebuilt four holes and we were pretty run down. We spent the next few years waiting for those to grow in. Both courses were in need of a major renovation.

Bator did an internship at Ludlow (Mass.) Country Club and, with associate degree in agriculture, became head superintendent at Mill River Country Club in Stratford, Conn., at the ripe old age of 20.

Mill River had some of the state's best golfers. But the course had been allowed to deteriorate to the point that the state golf association declared it would never again stage the state title there, said Bator. Within three years, he whipped the Tom Winton-designed course into shape and the Connecticut Open returned.

The Country Club of Pittsfield (Mass.), "the blue blood course in that area," according to Bator, was his next stop. He stayed there seven years before venturing out of New England in 1977 to Oak Hill which was preparing for the 1980 PGA Championship.

Bator was selected from among 100 applicants for the head post at the 36-hole, Rochester, N.Y., club, thereby accomplishing the second of his two career goals when he graduated from UMass — heading a Con-
necticut club and hosting a major tournament.

There were a few trials and tribulations, "said Bator. "The Fazios (George and Tom) had just rebuilt four holes and we were waiting for those to grow in. Both courses were pretty run down. We spent the next three years improving drainage, dealing with thatch and addressing the lack of turf on greens, tees and fairways. We had to rebuild from top to bottom. We made a lot of mistakes. But there was no comparison between the course when we took over and when the PGA took place."

Pine Valley was ranked among the top three courses in the world when Bator assumed the head superintendent's post in 1983. Poor turf conditions, particularly a thick thatch layer, were keeping the Clementon, N.J., facility from its rightful No. 1 spot, he said.

Bator's crews aerified the fairways 23 times over the next three years in preparation for the 1986 Walker Cup. He also used triplex mowers on fairways for the first time to get a 3 1/2-inch cut. The result was a successful Walker Cup and the No. 1 ranking among the world's courses, said Bator.

"We'd had some problems with the course before Dick came," said Pine Valley Chairman Ernest Ransome, who was president when he hired Bator in 1983. "I give Dick all the credit in the world. He did an outstanding job. I've never seen a course in better shape than ours for that Walker Cup."

"Dick's a hyper guy. He's an incredibly hard worker. He always has a lot of projects going at the same time. Sometimes it seems like too many. But he always gets them done," Bator said Ransome's instructions were, "figure out what you have to do and then do it." The autonomy, tradition, and golf-only emphasis at Pine Valley made it a difficult post to leave. But leave Bator did in 1986, returning to Rochester to design and build Blue Heron Hills Country Club and Gypsum Hills Country Club.

"Every superintendent dreams of building his own course," said Bator. "For two years I didn't have to worry about play on my course. There was no interference from green committee members. I had my first Sunday off in 20 years. It was nice."

Seeing something take shape before your eyes is a thrill. Building a course is like an artist molding a piece of clay. I always wondered if I could build a course and I found out that I could. What I learned as a superintendent at Oak Hill and Pine Valley certainly helped.

But the lure of again managing a world-class course finally won out. While interviewing for the head post at Tom Fazio's exclusive Caves Valley Club in Baltimore last summer, Bator was approached by Merion Green Committee Chairman James Bradbeer and President W. Scott Smith.

"There was an instant chemistry between Mr. Bradbeer, Mr. Smith, the committee and myself," said Bator. "When I left Pine Valley, I said I'd never come back this way. But here I am again at a major league course trying to maintain major league conditions."

"The transition from designing to the daily hands-on management of a course was the most difficult aspect of the job. I'm still a little rusty."

"Maybe there were no challenges left in Rochester. Maybe I missed the big time. I don't know. All I do know is I've always loved this game and I'm glad I'm here," Bator immediately set about trying to restore the Hugh W. Wilson-designed facility. "It was nice."

"We've started a massive aerification program; modified them with pure sand to harden them up; started an overdyeing program with Penncross bent grass. We've smooth them out; improved the nutrient levels; checked for nematodes and diseases; and started a monthly newsletter outlining the steps we were taking to all members."

His crews have rebuilt seven tees and patched a dozen others. A two-year, drain-age-improvement program is in place. Tree root pruning around greens is underway. The irrigation system is being refurbished and maintenance areas updated.

"We're trying to restore the ruined edges around what may be the best-designed bunkers in the world," said Bator, who is head of schedule at the close of the first year of his three-year restoration program. "We want to restage their Scottish appearance."

"We also want to restore the old fescues and the native grasses for the contrasting colors. . . . We'll begin gradually converting our fairways from poa to bentgrass Aug. 6. We'll overseed and by next June we'll have to 55 percent bentgrass on the fairways. We did a similar thing at Pine Valley in 1983."

Bator credits his maintenance crew and Merion's administration for much of his suc-
cess.

"It's to their (maintenance staff) credit that they've adapted to my high intensity and expectation level. The new and existing staff have blended well and are improving weekly. This first-year crew is as good as any I've had.

""For the green committee, 'I've always been able to work with a free hand anywhere I've gone. It's the same here. I've never had an incompetent green committee, chairman or president anywhere I've been," he said.

Over the years, Bator has become known as a regional turfgrass expert.

"He's a dirt under the fingernails type of superintendent," said Jan Beljan, a senior designer in Fazio's office. "He's the grass guy."

Continued on page 32
In university test after test, and on course after course, Vorlan® has proven to be the most effective Dollar Spot and Leaf Spots fungicide available. It's the result of Vorlan's unique chemistry, making it both a curative and longer lasting preventative. One application insures disease-free turf for up to 28 days!

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U.S. Open win spurs more business for Hale Irwin

BY PETER BLAIS
A U.S. Open victory is good for business, just ask Patrick Fister or Richard Phelps.

Fister is senior vice president of Hale Irwin Golf Services, Ltd. Phelps, who has many courses to his own credit, is Irwin’s lead architect on golf course projects.

“There’s definitely been a lot more interest,” said Fister, following Irwin’s second straight tour victory at the Buck Classic.

“We’ve had a lot more requests for information and site visits. And the people we’ve been negotiating with have signed up quickly.

“It’s hard to say whether it’s the excitement over Hale’s victories or wanting to preserve the contract price. But we’ve put no pressure on people to sign up before the price goes up.”

In fact, there are no plans to cash in on Irwin’s success by raising his $450,000 architectural fee, said Fister.

“Hale’s always believed his ability to play and win has no direct correlation to his ability to design an excellent golf course,” Fister said.

Overseas offers in excess of Irwin’s fee have come since his June rampage. But due to his busy schedule, which includes 20 to 22 Tour events yearly and organizing a charity tournament for a St. Louis children’s hospital, he won’t be accepting more overseas work than usual, Fister said.

Irwin has limited himself to three or four courses a year since entering the design field in 1985. Four Irwin courses are open and another seven are in varying stages of planning or construction, including two in Japan.

But as do most player/designers, Irwin relies heavily on a trained golf course architect in laying out a facility. In Irwin’s case, that’s Phelps.

“Hale offers different ideas than someone like myself who was college-trained in landscape architecture, said the Evergreen, Colo.-based architect. “He is more careful about things like making sure three or four consecutive dogleg don’t all go in the same direction or seeing that all the par 3’s are aligned differently. And he adds some artistic slants that are very refreshing.”

Phelps has been in the golf course architecture business for 29 years and was president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1980-81. He enjoyed great success before joining with Irwin. For instance, four of his five Texas courses were ranked among the top 20 in Japan.

“In Irwin’s case, that’s Phelps,” said Phelps.

“The course will feature tropical vegetation grown by one of the club members, Manuel Diaz, whose Manuel Diaz Farms is the largest tropical nursery in Florida.

Dye’s trademark hole is the seventh. It is a 165-yard island green par 3, set amidst a lagoon with Miami Beach a scenic backdrop.

NEWLY PLANNED U.S. Courses

Following is a chart containing the sites and contacts for new courses and renovations in the preliminary planning stages. When these courses are ready to begin construction they will be listed again the the “Courses newly approved in the U.S.” chart.

We would appreciate your help in updating this section. To contact us call 207-846-0600 or write Golf Course News, P.O. Box 997, 38 Lafayette St., Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

Location
California
— Desert Hot Springs Cornerstone Development, El Torro
— North Fontana Lewis Homes of Upland
— San Luis Obispo Dan Heath, Water World Resorts Inc.
— Stockton Howard Arnaiz, Steven Malcoun
— Thousand Palms Paul Heck, Rancho Mirage
— Truckee Ron Purr, Cauney Capital Group
Colorado
— Grand Junction Par Excellence Recreation Co., Littleton
Florida
— Pensacola Beach Joe Endry, JME Realty
— Stuart Martin County Commissioner Maggy Hurchalla
Illinois
— Chicago Oak Lawn Park District
— Galena Forum Development Corp., Bloomingdale
Indiana
— East Chicago Parks Dir. Richard Gomez
— Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott
— Indianapolis George Adams, P.C., Myers, Fla.
— Indianapolis Mansur Development Corp.
— Indianapolis R.N. Thompson & Assoc.
— Munster Town Manager Thomas DiGiallo
Iowa
— Clinton Mayor Betty Snyder
— Kentucky
— Louisville Arnold Palmer
— Maryland
— Annapolis Washington Brick & terra Cotta Co.
— Massachusetts
— Mattapoisett Keller Co.
— New Hampshire
— Chichester Frank Darling
— New Jersey
— Jersey City Peter Ylvisaker
— New York
— Bridgehampton Rees Jones
— Holbrook Benjamin Development, Garden City
— South Dakota
— Vermillion City Manager Jeff Pederson
— Texas
— Weslaco First Golf Corp., Denver
— Vermont
— Colchester Drumlin Development Corp.
— Virginia
— Bristol Larry Dingus
— Fredericksburg Robert E. Reid, Jr.
— Washington
— Olympia John Morrison, Gig Harbor
— Vancouver Port Commissioner/Arch Miller
— Wisconsin
— Weston William Greenwood

von Hagge team designing in Mexico

Von Hagge Design Associates of Spring, Texas, is keeping busy around the world, including two courses in Mexico.

Robert von Hagge and his team are proceeding with work on a 27-hole championship course in Queretaro, north of Mexico City, and a 27-hole layout at Isla Navidad on Mexico’s central Pacific coast.

The Queretaro course is part of a private residential development in a historically prominent political and cultural area. The course is part of a sports complex, that will include a clubhouse, casitas and about 1,000 residential lots developed by Ignacio Santos.

The Isla Navidad property should provide an extraordinary hole and vista. It is on an island, surrounded by mountains, the ocean and an inland bay from which the Spanish conquistadors built and launched their ships that sailed west to discover the Philippine Islands.

P.B. Dye creates ‘manicured’ look

P.B. Dye departed from his links style in designing a new nine-hole course at Fisher Island, Fla., which he says possesses an “Augusta National look.”

With manicured fairways and roughs and a variety of grasses, the resort community course on Piscayge Bay should be exciting, Dye and his owners say.

“There’s nothing short about it,” said Dye, referring in part to ocean winds that prevail over the 3,105-yard layout.
Jones' new challenge: 1st Fla. course

In creating his first course in Florida, Robert Trent Jones Jr. will remake flat terrain into a layout "with gently rolling hills, lush tropical vegetation and strategically placed lakes and lagoons."

Jones is teaming with Arvida's Weston, a new Broward County community, to build Weston Hills Country Club, a par 72 course that will open in September. At least one more course will be constructed in the community. Jones said: "The warm subtropical winds and south Florida sun are important factors that dictate the placement of bunkers and which grasses to use."

He selected Tiftdwarf Bermuda on the fairways.

With four sets of tees, players of all abilities can play the course. "Weston Hills will be a course where you have the opportunity to use every club in your bag with a good mix of long and short holes... I patterned this course after my own game. I want to identify the best club champion at Weston Hills Country Club, not the best player in the world," Jones said.

The first four holes on both nines have no water hazards, but water comes into play on a number of other holes.

The Lakeside course has been completed at the Golf Club of Georgia, an Arthur Hills design in Alpharetta, Ga., near Atlanta. A second 18 holes by Hills, named Creekside course, is now under construction.

The Lakeside course will open in the summer of 1991, giving it a full year to grow in. The course measures 7,034 yards from the back tees. The Golf Club of Georgia is a municipal course, located on a rolling site.

Courses newly approved in the U.S.

Golf Course News is publishing this list monthly. It includes courses that have been approved around the country in the past month. In addition, the chart on the next page contains the sites and contacts for new courses and renovations in the planning stages. When those courses are ready to begin construction they will be listed again in this "Courses newly approved in the U.S." chart.

We would appreciate your help in updating this section. To contact us call 207-846-0600 or write Golf Course News, P.O. Box 197, 38 Lafayette St., Yarmouth, Maine 04096. Under "Type"—D—Daily Fee; P—Private; and M—Municipal.
Clubs million-dollar losers
in Supreme Court decision

BY MARK LESLIE

The U.S. Supreme Court has clarified a gray area of the Tax Code in a decision that will cost private tax-exempt clubs millions of dollars a year.

"We are naturally disappointed with the decision," said Harold B. Berman, chairman of the National Club Association's legal/legislative committee. "The High Court, at least, has clarified a murky part of the law."

The Supreme Court voted 6-3 in favor of the Internal Revenue Service's interpretation of Revenue Ruling 81-69 in the case of Portland Golf Club v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The decision settles a nine-year court battle with the National Club Association and various clubs during which the clubs won two decisions in the Tax Court and one of four in circuit courts.

The contested tax has averaged $2,000 to $5,000 a year for tax-exempt clubs that have been in the Revenue Ruling 81-69 audit. A few clubs have substantially more at stake, according to the NCA.

James Singlering, executive vice president of the Club Managers Association of America, said of the Supreme Court decision: "Without a doubt, we're talking about millions of dollars a year."

The IRS has demanded that the clubs use the alternate "gross-to-gross" method, which greatly reduces the fixed expenses.

The IRS has demanded that the clubs use the alternate "square-foot-and-hours-of-actual-use" method, which greatly reduces the fixed expenses.

Justices Anthony Kennedy, Sandra Day O'Connor and Antonin Scalia disagreed with the majority, arguing that clubs should have greater flexibility in demonstrating profit motive than the single choice.

Kennedy said the Internal Revenue Code allows clubs the option of demonstrating profit motive by methods different from reporting taxes. "A taxpayer's profit motive, in my view, cannot turn upon the particular accounting method by which it reports its ordinary and necessary expenses ... The Court cites no authority for its novel rule and we cannot adopt it simply because we confront a hard case," Kennedy wrote.

"A taxpayer does not alter the nature of an enterprise by selecting one reasonable allocation method over another ... The Court's decision also departs from the traditional practice of the courts and the IRS. Rather than relying on strict consistency in accounting, the courts long have evaluated profit motivation according to a variety of factors that indicate whether the taxpayer acted in a manner characteristic of one engaged in a trade or business."

Jack Kelly, acting executive assistant of the IRS Exempt Organizations Technical Division, agreed with the NCA and CMAA that the added taxes to clubs nationally "could be millions." The Portland Golf Club had only $5,000 at stake. The NCA rose to its aid to use it as a test case for everyone, Walsh said.

Now, Walsh said: "The only way to get around this would be to get the IRS to change its interpretation ... or go to Congress. And this is basically too small a matter to get Congress involved. It amounts to asking them to open a loophole. The prospects of that are just not good."

Kelly agreed the Supreme Court decision should mark the end of the battle.

Continued on page 17

Some big names have already started arriving for the 1992 PGA Championship

Hosting one of golf's four major championships is a huge job. Just ask Superintendent Tom Van De Walle of St. Louis' Bellerive Country Club — site of the 1992 PGA Championship.

"I came here in 1986 with the major responsibility of getting Bellerive ready for the PGA," says Van De Walle. "Six years sounds like a lot of time, but we've rebuilt greens, tees, bunkers, fairways — even redesigned some holes entirely — and we still have a lot left to do."

"John Deere has played a big role in our success. We mow greens with the John Deere 22s, fairways with a 5-reel 3325 Turf Mower and tees and intermediate rough with a 3-reel 856 Red Mound Mower. The condition of the course has improved dramatically since we started using these mowers.

"We've converted almost all our fairways and tees to zoysia — a grass that's great to play on but tough to mow. The John Deere 3325 and 856 are the only mowers we've found that can handle it. Their cutting units stay true and don't let the turf get puffy. Plus, the single lever lift on the 3325 improves our fairways by allowing us to get around this would be to get the IRS to change its interpretation ... or go to Congress. And this is basically too small a matter to get Congress involved. It amounts to asking them to open a loophole. The prospects of that are just not good."

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BY MARK LESLIE

A pair of statewide initiatives that would have drastically or totally reduced field-burning in Oregon have failed.

The petitions were filed with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office on July 6, but fell short of the 63,578 signatures needed to put the matter before voters in November.

"We have a reprieve for a year maybe," said Dennis Hays, executive vice president of the Oregon Seed Trade Association in Portland. "We're sure a bill will be proposed in the state Legislature in January. If they (field-burning opponents) don't get that through, they'll bring up this initiative again.

"These people are not going to stop." The case is important to the golf industry in the United States. Oregon's 70 seed companies provide all U.S.-produced ryegrass, bentgrass, couches and creeping red fescues seed, half the U.S.-grown tall fescue seed, and about one-fourth its bluegrass seed.

For the growers, field-burning is the proven method to ensure a healthy crop.

"When you burn, the root stays alive and it comes back next year. The burning gives it a new life so that it comes back pure and clean," Hays said.

"If there's no burning, you get disease-filled crops. The burning purifies. It kills disease and insects." One of the initiatives called for a total ban on burning in five years. That failed to get the needed signatures but was still turned in to the secretary of state.

The second initiative would cut the number of acres that could be burned every year for four years until it lowered the maximum from the current 250,000 to 50,000 acres. That one got just more than 65,000 signatures, but some 1,500 allegedly were forged by petitioners who were being paid per vote.

Research continues

Hays said "tons of research" is being done to find new ways to purge the fields of disease and pests.

"The state is financing some of the research, a lot of private companies are researching it, and Oregon State University is studying it. They're looking for some way to deal with all the straw. Some straw goes to Japan now for animal feed, but there's not much demand for it. And there's not nearly enough demand."

Asked about the possibility of more propane burning, Hays said the propane companies "confided to me" they might create more

Continued on page 18

Tax case

Continued from page 16 debate.

"A Supreme Court decision is the law of the land. This decides the issue," he said.

Singerling feels Congress might be persuaded to rewrite the Code, but it is not the CMAA's role to lobby. "We encourage our members to assist congressmen to write positive legislation," he said.

The IRS is undefeated in the Supreme Court on tax-exempt tax code matters over a number of years, according to Walsh and Kelly. Walsh placed the number of cases at 18.

 Added Kelly: "Yes, we've gone 12 or 13 (cases) over the last 15 to 20 years without losing. Most every case was a close issue that could have gone either way. And this one as well because we lost in several circuits."

In fact, the IRS lost this issue in three of six circuit decisions. The IRS won in the 2nd Circuit (vs The Brook, Inc. in 1986), but lost in the 6th Circuit (vs Cleveland Athletic Club, Inc. in 1985) and twice in the Tax Court (vs North Ridge Country Club in 1989 and vs Portland GC). The IRS successfully appealed both Tax Court decisions to the 9th Circuit Court.

"(Supreme Court decision) is disappointing," Walsh said. "Especially because when we left the oral arguments we at least had our fingers crossed that we might win. As it turns out we got three of the nine. We weren't that far off, especially given the IRS success rate-kill ratio on taking anyone to court on tax-exempt matters."

CMAA's Singerling doesn't think anyone "won" this case. He said the IRS and courts are judging clubs by circumstances 20 years ago, when, in some cases, there was competition with local businesses. But, he added, clubs have vastly changed since then.

"Clubs today aren't in competition with local businesses but provide a place for special functions...As club business has expanded, we have further defined what a private club is. In a given community it may be the only place to hold a special dinner, or charity event," he said.

Singerling said "Private clubs don't generate profits. No member of a private club has ever received a dividend from that club. Any revenue goes directly back into the community—to hourly employees and businesses who supply goods to that club. So by inhibiting these dollars, the community loses."

"Those who look at this as victory, I'd like to know who they think will benefit..."

Singerling said CMAA is financing a study to determine the impact of the court decision. "That study should be complete by September."
Field days show industry progress

While turfseed growers struggle against field-burning opponents in Oregon, the county of Spokane in Washington State puts a strict field-burning law into effect this year.

The Spokane County Commission established a tough new law that seed producers fear may spread to neighboring counties and the state of Idaho.

Doyle Jacklin, vice president of marketing for Jacklin Seed in Post Falls, Idaho, said the Spokane County law "does not affect Idaho or the surrounding counties but it's only a matter of time before those counties probably adopt the same rules.

"It definitely is a worrisome factor. It will affect us. And it appears there will be a gradual phaseout of burning in the Northwest."

The Spokane County law limits the number of "burn days" to 14 and they must be consecutive. "If rain comes and you can't burn, then that's tough," Jacklin said.

The law "also places a cap on the number of acres, and, in essence, says that existing acres can be burned but newly seeded acres cannot," he said.

A group called the Clean Air Coalition has been formed in Jacklin's home state of Idaho to oppose field-burning.

Jacklin said its members claim "burning could cause cancer because they don't know what toxins could be emitted by fields that have been treated by herbicide or insecticide. Well, in the first place they are very short-lived chemicals that are biodegradable and they don't even exist when we burn. If they did exist, burning would turn them to carbon dioxide and water.

"But they have raised the issue in the media as if it could be a cancer-causing process."

Jacklin guessed that in Idaho the question of burning will be one or two years behind the states of Washington and Oregon, "but it will fall into line, and we'll have to deal with it in the same way as they have."

In the meantime, private companies are researching the subject, and the state has funded $550,000 this year to the Department of Ecology to study to discover the effects of burning; if any toxins are emitted during the process; and the best climatic conditions to burn in.

Record, even international, attendance was reported at the seed industry field days held this summer in the Northwest, the capital for turf seed.

Since the first field day, held eight years ago by Turf-Seed in Hubbard, Ore., the events have been growing in popularity and attendance.

Jacklin Seed Co. in Post Falls, Idaho, and Turf Merchants in Tangent, Ore., are also now holding annual field days.

Many seed distributors are turning the field days into a one-week tour of a region. This year, Jacklin hosted its "Discovery Tour" on Monday and Tuesday.

Turf-Seed held its event Thursday and Turf Merchant closed the week with a Friday presentation.

"We had an excellent turnout. Just under 200 (wholesale distributors and media people) attended," said Doyle Jacklin, vice president of marketing for Jacklin Seed.

Jacklin said his firm set a different sort of agenda this year, its third. It spent time on its "burn trials" which tested 90 turfgrass varieties on 40 acres for their production when the field is not burned.

The company also took people on a tour of its greenhouse, research laboratory and condition-
Endophytes a critical find for research

BY MARK LESLIE

As research redoubles to develop turfgrasses that are resistant to every malady and attack from nature, the use of "natural" genes will play a significant role, according to the national director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Turfgrass Evaluation Program.

Speaking from his Beltsville, Md., office, Kevin Morris said "use of endophytes will be more and more prevalent in developing varieties of grass."

An endophyte is a fungus that lives within plants and gives them natural resistance to certain surface insects.

"With the use of pesticides being restricted, this is going to be a bigger and bigger factor," Morris said.

"There are quite a number of perennial ryegrass varieties that have high levels of endophyte in the seed. It was first found in perennial ryegrass and has been bred into several perennial ryegrass varieties."

Now, breeders are searching for endophytes in other species.

Morris said it has been discovered in fine leaf and tall fescues, leading to work to incorporate it into those species.

"It's not as prevalent as it is in ryegrass right now, but it will be down the road. Hopefully we'll find one for Kentucky bluegrasses, and maybe bentgrass, eventually," he said.

"Asked for a timeframe for the public to expect new endophyte-laden varieties on the market, Morris replied that if they find an endophyte somewhere in Kentucky bluegrass it will be five or six years before it will be readily available to buy."

Burn research

Meanwhile, turfgrass companies in the Northwest are making progress in research into ways to cope with a possible future ban on field-burning.

Doyle Jacklin, vice president of marketing for Jacklin Seed Co. of Post Falls, Idaho, reported that "some varieties of seed are being developed that aren't affected as much as current varieties by absence of burning."

The seed industry contends that field-burning doubles or triples seed yield. Jacklin Seed has confirmed those claims on a 4-acre test site, but in the meantime has also found some new varieties that call for special attention.

"We've marketed tripled production of many varieties, doubled production of others, and just increased yield of some," Jacklin said.

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Zoysiagrass sod is growing in popularity, but a shortage will drive up the price this year, experts say:

"Fewer acres of Zoysia are harvestable this year because of weather damage, so the prices will be driven up for at least a season," said Douglas H. Fender, executive director of the American Sod Producers Association in Rolling Meadow, Ill. "Some golf course superintendents have called us looking for Zoysiagrass sod. Some can't find it for hundreds of miles away from their courses."

Fender said weather has been the biggest problem. "We had freezes in December that took out a lot of grasses, especially warm-season varieties. Then flooding hit in the spring along Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama." In the wake of that damage, the price of Zoysiagrass sod rose "astronomically," Fender said. "Yet, for growers it was often an empty hope because there was no product to sell."

Regardless of the short-term outlook, the future looks bright for Zoysia sod producers because their product is becoming increasingly popular at golf courses.

"Its characteristics are matched more closely with what lawn producers look for," says Wayne McGowan III of Big Creek Turf Farm in Hollandale, MS 38748. "Whether it's for athletic fields, golf courses or lawns, the feedback from customers has been very positive."
more popular and more expensive

the buyer is looking for today," Fender said. "They're developing improved varieties that have a smaller leaf structure and are deeper green. They give you more tolerance, in the transition zone especially. If you put a Bermudagrass in and you get a cold spell, you can lose it. If you put Zoysia in, you're going to keep it."

"So, superior winter hardiness is one reason more people are using it.... Zoysia does great in both hot sun and cold winters."

"Zoysia does great in both hot sun and cold winters. It grows in more sun and cold winters. It's one of the greatest experiences you'll ever have in hitting the ball because you just don't get a bad lie," she said.

"The ball sits totally on top of the blades. It doesn't sink down in the grass at all."

Stone said that in the South, superintendents with Bermudagrass have to raise their mowing heights "quite a bit" in the last part of summer to help protect it through the winter. "That's not necessary with Zoysia. We mow it a little under 1/2 inch/year-round," he said.

Fender said Zoysia's aggressive growth is another positive characteristic. "Zoysia fills in an area quickly," he said. "Many people spig or plug Zoysia for this reason."

Cathy Morrow, national sales manager for Pursley, Inc., a sod producer in Bradenton, Fla., and Salisbury, Md., said Zoysia's popularity has increased "principally because people are interested in more drought-tolerant grasses. Also, on golf courses they want grasses that are more wear-tolerant as well. Plus, it has better surviv-

Continued on page 19

### Table: Zoysiagrass Sod Farms

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Address</th>
<th>Contact person</th>
<th>Telephone number</th>
<th>Acres harvestable in August 1990</th>
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The United States Golf Association Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee has begun meetings to discuss how $3 million in research money on the environmental impact of golf courses will be spent.

The committee will make its final funding decisions by December, according to USGA Green Section National Director Jan Snow.

Some successful proposals, especially those in the North, where experimental plantings need to be made before the onset of winter, could be notified earlier, he added.

The 10 to 12 proposals chosen begin receiving money by next February, the USGA official said.

The proposals have ranged from a $10,000, three-year University of Maryland study on valuation of cultivation techniques for white grub control to a $250,000, three-year University of California at Riverside study of the fate of pesticides and nitrogen in a turfgrass environment.

The $3 million funding package is part of the USGA's overall three-year, $8.4 million research effort, more than double any previous spending on research.

"Right now the game is threatened by the lack of knowledge about the environmental impact of fertilizers and pesticides," said USGA President C. Grant Spaeth. "I can think of nothing more urgent to golf than to answer this environmental question and to propose responsible solutions."

The Research Committee plans to expand its current 13 members to include officials from a government agency like the Environmental Protection Agency, an environmental organization like the Audubon Society and a technical turf expert, according to Snow.

The committee currently consists of Chairman Snow; Green Section Committee Chairman Raymond Anderson; Sea Island (Ga.) Golf Club superintendent Tom Burton; Oregon State University Professor Nick Christians; USGA Executive Director David Fay; University of California at Riverside Professor Vic Ghinelli; Peter Hans, director of the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, England.

Also Howard Kaerwer, a retired turfgrass researcher Northrup King, Inc.; USGA Director of Green Section Research Mike Kenna; Director of Green Section Administration Dean Knuth; South Dakota State University Professor Paul Rieker; Golf Course Superintendents Association of America secretary/treasurer Bill Roberts; and Jim Watson, vice president of Toro Co.

The project will be the responsibility of the Green Section Commit tee chaired by Anderson. The GCSAA is cooperating with the USGA on this enterprise.

Spaeth promised the USGA will "continue the program with no preconceived position."

"We must maintain a position as the honest and independent broker," he said.

The studies will examine whether fertilizers and pesticides contaminate ground water and, if they do, the duration of their impact.

The USGA plans to appoint a wildlife ecologist to help golf courses develop and preserve wildlife habitat.

"Golf courses are often ideally suited for the preservation of wildlife species and we want to assist our members in improving their habitat," Spaeth said.

"It's also a good chance to communicate important information to our customers."

A tour took attendees to Turf Seed's 110-acre research site.

Steve Tubbs said Turf Merchants un veiled new varieties and explained how and why certain varieties were chosen over others to develop "—all things that help them sell the seed."

Turf Merchants also conducted a tour of its 130-acre research site which includes 5,000 turf plots and breeder blocks.

The future of field days? They will keep growing. "We've already got next year's plans," said Jacklin with a laugh. "Next June 18 and 19."

At $300, it's just a drop in the bucket compared to the alternative.

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BY PETER BLAIS

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Craig A. Marfia CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent Crystal Lake Country Club, Crystal Lake, Illinois reports on his results with Warren's TerraShield protective blankets for greens and tees.

Craig Marfia CGCS

"Probably the biggest reason we use TerraShield is the dramatic results it gives us. When our TerraShield covers came off this spring, the greens looked like they had been painted. It took the turf on our fairways nearly a month and a half to match our greens.

"In addition to earlier root development, the overall improvement in turf density with TerraShield is almost unbelievable. TerraShield gave our greens the added stress-resistance they needed to survive the surprise 3-inches of snow we got in May. And, it’s helping them withstand the heavy play we get during our short season (up to 30,000 rounds in 9 months). This fall every green on our course will be covered with TerraShield."

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You can have TerraShield Greens Blankets ready for your course in plenty of time for installation this fall if you act now!

Just phone Warren’s today at 1 800 828-8873 Toll Free

(please phone between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time)
Agriculture Certificate in Advanced Horticulture and is an associate of the Royal Horticultural Society, a fellow of the Linnean Society, the IoG and the Institute of Horticulture, and an associate member of the Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration.

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Moody chairs PLCAA education panel in Georgia

Douglas K. Moody, deputy executive director for the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, has been named chairman of the Education Committee for the Georgia Society of Association Executives.

Moody will be responsible for offering eight educational workshops to association executives in Georgia as part of the newly created Education Leadership Improvement Training and Education Program. Besides the continuing education program, the Education Committee is developing reciprocal training opportunities with the University of Georgia's business management curriculum.

Moody has served on GSAE's Education Committee for three years and has also served on the Directory and Annual Tradeshow Committee.

GSAE represents more than 400 executives, managers and suppliers of professional, trade and individual membership associations headquartered in Georgia.

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Irrigation experts form chapter

A Northeast chapter of the American Society of Irrigation Consultants has been formed. ASIC members Richard W. Smith, Robert M. Healey and James M. Barrett voted on April 27 to establish the chapter.

The purposes of ASIC-Northeast Chapter are those expressed in the goals and code of ethics of the national organization, with special emphasis on:

• Promoting efficient irrigation through sound design principles, system evaluation based on professional experience, and awareness of advances in irrigation technology and management.

• Addressing regional issues of environment, water and energy conservation, and a rapidly expanding irrigation industry through proper irrigation design and practices that respond to the specific requirements of local climate, environment and population.

• Promoting professionalism in the field of irrigation consulting.

• Promoting the use of irrigation consultants in all phases of irrigation projects from conceptual design through final approvals.

Regular membership is reserved for individuals who are working as independent irrigation consultants, and who have met the society's experience and education requirements. Associate membership is available for individuals and companies actively engaged in a related irrigation field. Apprentice and student memberships are also available.

Smith was elected president, Healey first vice president and Barrett second vice president. James M. White and Michael J. Astram was elected secretary treasurer.

All officers are regular members of ASIC and all are certified irrigation designers in the national Irrigation Association's certification program.

Smith has been in the irrigation business for nearly 30 years, as a contractor (owner of Smith Turf Irrigation), a wholesale supplier (president of I & E Supply), and as an independent consultant since the 1985 formation of Richard W. Smith & Associates, Inc. in Milford, Conn.

Healey has been involved in irrigation installation, maintenance, design and consulting for 15 years. His firm is located in Natick, Mass.

Barrett began his 20-year irrigation career working for an installer. He then spent 12 years with Robert Trent Jones, Inc. as a design associate and irrigation designer.

In 1985 he founded James Barrett Associates, Inc., located in Montclair, N.J.

White graduated from the University of Massachusetts, and is a PE licensed in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island. He has been involved in irrigation consulting and engineering since 1978.

Astram has been involved in irrigation consulting and design since 1980. His company, Northern Designs, is located in Milford, Conn., and specializes in irrigation design and specification work for architects, landscape architects and engineers. His projects have ranged from residential jobs to large commercial sites for major corporations.

The chapter intends to have periodic meetings throughout the Northeast with guest speakers addressing irrigation topics such as design, materials, contract liability, water management, and environmental considerations.

Irrigation Expo preparations made

Preparations for the 11th International Irrigation Exposition and 3rd National Irrigation Symposium continue as more than 200 companies have contracted to exhibit, Oct. 28-31, in Phoenix, Ariz.

The event, "Visions of the Future," is a joint production of the Irrigation Association (IA) and the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE). It will showcase technological developments.

Specific topics to be covered will be the leading methods of water conservation, in-depth technical training, presentations by urban/landscape and agricultural-irrigation experts, and dozens of original papers on irrigation research and technology.

"Visions of the Future" will also be the first time that the U.S.D.A.'s Agricultural Research Service has honored the IA by selecting the show's Oct. 29 keynote session to present the B.Y. Morrison Lecturer for 1990.

Also, an international business center will set up for all international visitors to register, contact interpreters, and meet with U.S. firms interested in international trade.

Certification exams will be given Oct. 28. They include the Step 3 exam and a choice of the following Step 3 exams: Irrigation Designer General Agriculture (with drip, surface or sprinkler specialties); Irrigation Designer General Turf (with residential, golf course, or commercial specialties); Irrigation Contractor; or Irrigation Manager.

"IA University" will present a new series of short courses Oct. 27 and 28. These require separate registration, which includes a free Expo pass for Sunday's grand opening.

The IA has set its headquarters for "Visions" at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, while ASAE selected the Sheraton Phoenix. Both hotels are near the Phoenix Civic Plaza, where the expo/symposium will be held.

Tours will be offered throughout this highly irrigated desert region, some featuring general-interest sites and some with a special irrigation focus. Included is a trip to Biosphere II, 2.25 acres of dome-covered, controlled-climate landscape.

The IA President's Annual Reception and Banquet will be held Oct. 30 in the Hyatt Hotel.

People may contact the IA at 1911 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1009, Arlington, VA 22209-1630; 703-524-1200.

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Continued from page 1

or built 30 courses in California alone, including such shrines as La Costa Country Club in Carlsbad and Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, site of the Los Angeles Open.

"There's a rumor they've offered the members at a Hollywood course $1 million each plus a lifetime membership for their course," said Abrams.

The $137 million paid for Riviera was considered exorbitant by many and led to speculation the Japanese are more interested in golf courses as future subdivisions than playing fields.

Abrams disagrees.

"The Japanese are so into golf, and the cost of golf is so high in Japan, that $137 million for a prestige course isn't considered that high," he said. "I don't question their motives. They seem pretty pure."

"In a country where 90 percent of the golfers never make it from the driving range to the course, belonging to a private club carries a great deal of prestige. In fact, memberships are often held in corporate names and are traded like stocks, sometimes for millions of dollars.

"Golf courses are a very important place for the Japanese to carry on business," said Abrams.

Negotiating with the Japanese can be a very frustrating experience for an American businessperson used to a quicker pace, according to Abrams.

"The Japanese take a long time to study a proposal," he said. "All decisions are made by consensus. A business proposal is analyzed first by a lower-level management person. If he accepts it, he moves it on to the next level until it eventually works its way to the company president. That's the opposite of the way we do things in this country, where the president makes a decision and it's up to the underlings to carry it out."

"While the Japanese system is slower, there is an advantage: There isn't one person to blame if an investment goes wrong since everyone has a hand in the final decision. Since everyone is responsible, everyone tries to make sure the investment works. So while you have to wait longer for a decision, once it's made, everyone helps out."

"And they're very honorable to deal with. It's not unusual for them to pay a company they're working with well before the due date."

While it's tough to sell the Japanese on an idea, they move quickly once a decision is made, Abrams said. For instance, he was involved in the purchase the of Tantallon Country Club in Washington, D.C. The course bordered a nearby hotel. When the hotel owners decided to sell, Abrams, a Tokyo-based associate of the Rosenbluth company, TSA Associates, offered financial backing.

Abrams' group was asked to name a price. The Japanese sensed what they figured was a fairly high price and prepared for long negotiations. But the Japanese insisted that the price was just $100,000 below the asking price and the deal was quickly done.

The Japanese are also open to creative ideas, Abrams said. His company proposed building a course on Guam with nine Senior players designing two holes apiece. Japanese developers jumped at the idea.

Abrams' company received its first payment before a formal contract was even drafted. And the Japanese developed a novel marketing scheme. One house was built on each hole. Hole and house were then sold to different corporations for $1 million each.

How do you find Japanese investors?

"It helps to be properly introduced by an American group that has done business with them or a member of the Japanese group itself," Abrams said. "Or you can contact the American counterparts of the bigger Japanese companies directly. But I know of one company that gets something like 150 proposals a day. They have a warehouse full of them."

"But if you have an existing, prestigious property, they're generally very interested.

Pension funds

Pension funds have become increasingly involved in golf course developments in recent years.

Union pension funds own courses in Half Moon Bay and Palm Springs, Calif., and Foxfire Country Club near Fleishurt, N.C., a 36-hole, 40-room golf resort that officials hope will attract 36,000 Japanese visitors a year by 1992, said Abrams.

Why are pension funds interested in golf? The returns on investment are often higher than pension funds can attain elsewhere, said Abrams. That's a very attractive considering the losses many funds have experienced in the weak office building real estate market.

"There's so much money in pension funds," said Abrams. "AT&T alone gets something like $300 million in new money every month. The question is how to invest that money. I think you'll see pension funds investing in golf communities more often."

There are many different pension funds - private, public, union, employee and many others. The best way to secure pension fund money is to find a fund trustee, "preferably one who is a golfer," said Abrams, and pitch your idea to him or her.

Other sources

"There are a few companies specializing in golf courses there," said Abrams. For more information, contact your nearby authorized Standard Golf distributor.

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Continued from page 1

S&Ls

Continued from page 1

championship course was completed in 1986. It hosts 45,000 rounds a year, breaks even financially and includes an 11,000-square-foot clubhouse with locker rooms, restaurant and lounge, said Timm. The course sits on 198 acres. The rest of the land is available for commercial development. The RTC is asking $35 million for the entire project. It had received three offers through mid-July.

"If a buyer isn't found in the next two to three months, we'll begin splitting out the property," explained Timm. "There's been a lot of interest in the course. It's a full-grass course. Many of the new courses here are target courses.

"It is also piped for effluent water, which is a plus with the new laws coming along requiring effluent use on golf courses. And it's in a fast-growing area, East Mesa.

"A regional mall is opening in the vicinity this fall and the highway is supposed to be extended another three miles in 1991. That should allow for a lot more traffic."

The course alone is valued at $7 million and an adjacent, 15-acre resort parcel at $2 million, said Timm.

Western Savings was established over 60 years ago, said Timm. It eventually became the second-largest savings and loan in Arizona. Its asset base grew to between $6 billion and $7 billion in the early 1980s with the deregulation of the banking industry.

But the downturn in the Arizona real-estate market in the second half of the decade eroded the company's equity base. It was placed into conservatorship last summer and receivership March 31 after the Bank of America purchased its 61 branches and deposits. Happy Trails was among the assets that remained.

Begun as a recreational vehicle resort in 1982 for "Snowbirds" escaping the Midwest's winter snow and cold, Western Savings and its partners began marketing 1,900 lots as part of the first phase of development, according to Western Savings Operations Manager Jerry Shambaugh. The course was completed in 1989. It hosts 45,000 rounds a year, breaks even financially and includes an 11,000-square-foot clubhouse with locker rooms, restaurant and lounge, said Timm. The course sits on 198 acres. The rest of the land is available for commercial development. The RTC is asking $35 million for the entire project. It had received three offers through mid-July.

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The June issue of Golf Course News incorrectly reported that the Fort Dix (NJ) golf course was closing. It was a source error. According to a Fort Dix spokesperson, the Trenton facility is "having its training mission realigned by the Army but will remain open for other missions under a "semiservice" status. Current plans are to keep the 18-hole golf course open to serve the permanent staff but will remain after realignment and also the thousands of military retirees in South Jersey who frequent the course."

Foreign

Continued from page 26

"specializing in golf course financing," added Abrams, who has worked with, among others, San Francisco-based GATX Golf Capital (telephone 415-955-3200). "They're good. But they're incredibly selective."

The National Golf Foundation lists 12 companies, including GATX Golf Capital, as potential financing sources. They are:

Alternative Mortgage of Longwood, Fla. (407-774-0000); The Balco Co. of Skokie, Ill. (708-676-6923); BLB Associates, Inc. of Acton, Mass. (508-635-0400); First Golf Capital of Denver, Colo. (800-421-9454); G.E. Capital — HFFS of Charlotte, N.C. (704-541-4904); Greyhound Financial of Phoenix, Ariz. (602-925-4525); The Investment Matchmaker of Van Nuys, Calif. (818-780-1034); Maloney Golf Finance, Inc. of Kansas City, Mo. (816-444-2355); and The Prestwick Group of Northbrook, Ill. (708-476-6874).

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NGF figures show more golfers, fewer rounds in '89

'Relatively little growth overall for industry,' reports Beditz

The number of golfers grew, but rounds decreased in 1989, according to the National Golf Foundation's latest research report on golf in the United States.

The report, "Golf Participation in the U.S.," showed that the nation's golfer population rose 5.6 percent — from 23.4 million to 24.7 million players — but aver-
age rounds played per golfer dropped 7.7 percent — from 20.6 to 19.2. That decrease resulted in a 2.7-percent decline (857 million vs. 474 million) in total rounds played for the year.

Rounds played is one of the leading business indicators for golf course owners/operators, golf equipment manufacturers, and other golf-related businesses. In 1987 and 1988, annual rounds played had increased three per-
cent and 12 percent, respectively.

Researchers believe that record spring rains that drenched the Northeast and Hurricane Hugo's assault last fall on the Southeast contributed to the dropoff in 1989.

"Whatever the reasons," said Dr. Joseph F. Beditz, NGF president and chief executive opera-
tor, "our findings show that, while there were certainly more people than ever playing golf in 1989, they played on average a little less often ... meaning relatively little growth overall for the golf indus-
try."

"It also shows us," he added, "that to achieve its full potential for growth, the industry needs to work together collectively to not only ease the entry of beginning golfers into the game, but also to encourage less frequent golfers who consistently constitute approximately 25 percent of the U.S. golfer popula-
tion, historically account for 75 percent of all the rounds played each year. In 1989, these numbers decreased slightly — from 5.6 million to 5.5 million."

The report also shows that the nation's golfer population exceeded 2.6 million. New York and Illinois are next with just under 1.5 million golfers each, Texas, Ohio, Michigan and Florida remain the only other states with golfer populations exceeding 1 million.

Ten percent of golfers, or 2.5 million, were beginners — playing for the first time in 1989. There were also 2.1 million golfers who "returned to action" after one or more years of not playing. Those two pluses were offset by the 3.3 million golfers who dropped out in 1989 after having played during 1988. This yielded a net increase of 1.3 million golfers for the year.

Among other findings of the report:

- For the fourth straight year, about 40 percent of all new golfers were females — 1 million out of the 2.5 million total. However, the attrition rate among females in 1989 also continued to be disproportional.
- Although women constituted 22 percent of the golfer population, they accounted for 33 percent of those who dropped out.
- Highest participation rates are among Americans in their 20s and 30s - 16.2 percent and 14.0 percent, respectively. Half of the nation's golfers come from these two age groups combined.
- Although their numbers remain at about 3.4 million, seniors (age 60 and older) represent a diminishing proportion of all golfers. In 1986 they were 16.5 percent of the total, in 1989 only 13.9 percent. Golfers age 60 and above constitute nearly 30 percent of all frequent golfers.
- Golfers' average household income is $45,100 a year, almost 30 percent above the national average.
- More than 40 percent of all golfers live in households headed by a college graduate. Another 28 percent come from households whose head attended college but did not graduate.
- In 1989, as in previous years, 80 percent of the nation's golfers were "public golfers," playing at least 50 percent of their rounds on public courses.

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When you have Cushman quality at a competitive price, there's no reason to accept second best.

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The industry needs to work together collectively.

— Dr. Joseph Beditz

to play more often.

In its surveys, the NGF defines a golfer as anyone 5 or older who has played at least once during the survey year. It also distin-
guishes players by frequency of play, with "frequent golfers" being those who play 25 or more times a year.

Frequent golfers, who consist-
ently constitute approximately 25 percent of the U.S. golfer popula-

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Course for handicapped takes shape

Many companies offering services

BY MARK LESLIE

Inspired by an "excellent idea" with "worthwhile" goals, companies of all sorts are offering to help build the country's first golf course for the physically handicapped. Edwin Shaw Hospital in Akron, Ohio, hopes to have its three-hole course, driving range and practice area seeded by this fall, when it will make its grand opening. The $60,000 received from the NEC World Series of Golf, Aug. 24-27 at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, will be used to get the course under way. "People have given a lot," said Linda Cinson, vice president of marketing and development of the hospital. "The project seems to have a lucky star over it, it is so charmed."

Among the free offers:
• Lesco Inc. of Rocky River, Ohio, will donate all grass seed and fertilizer.
• Wadsworth Construction Co. in Plainfield, Ohio, has committed to build and shape the course.
• Hurdzan Design Group of Columbus, Ohio, will design the facility.
• Pro Path Inc. of Englewood, Fla., will install all golf cart paths.
• Commercial Pump Service of Swanton, Ohio, will design the facility.
• Hurdzan Design Group of Columbus, Ohio, will design the facility.
• Kurtz Bros. of Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio, will donate all grass seed and fertilizer.
• Local tree companies will clear the site.
• A firm is considering building a prototype golf cart wheelchair.

"A lot of people want to and will be involved," said Paul Eldredge of Wadsworth Construction, who is coordinating construction. "It's a good project, it's an excellent idea. I think it's very worthwhile."

"There's enough property there to do what they want to do, and it won't cost a lot. But it will take a little time and effort to get it all coordinated."

The timetable has been slowed by the discovery that the wetlands on the site are larger than originally thought. Architect Barry Serafin said the course is not "worthwhile" to build as severe but it will be a challenge for everybody. Meanwhile, handicapped golfers are being trained by the dozens at Edwin Shaw Hospital and are awaiting their chance to play on the new course.

Pennington Turf Type Tall Fescue Blend

Course designed for all to play

Paul Eldredge of Wadsworth Construction Co. said the new course for the handicapped will have to appeal to everyone, "because there are not enough handicapped golfers to pay for upkeep." Architect Barry Serafin of Hurdzan Design Group said the course is not designed for the handicapped, meaning handicapped players don't want to feel their disability was catered to in terms of difficulty.

But the design will address special problems facing the handicapped. For instance:
• Cart paths from tee to green.
• Specially designed wheelchairs with wider tires that reduce compaction on the greens.
• Access areas, like ramps, onto greens and tees.
• Flat sand traps.

"We want to make it as natural as possible," Serafin said. "Holes won't be as severe but it will be a challenge for everybody."

Planners have considered Mod Sod, artificial grass and real grass for the greens on the course. They are leaning toward bentgrass.

The number of parties involved will slow the project, Eldredge said. "It's going to be hard to coordinate." The wetlands required adjustments to his original routing plan, Serafin said. "Saying planners still hope to have "something done to show the project is off the ground" in time for the World Series of Golf, Aug. 24-27 at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, Eldredge said: "It's going to be hard to get it done this year. If it could get seeded this year it will be a blessing."

Meanwhile, handicapped golfers are being trained by the dozens at Edwin Shaw Hospital and are awaiting their chance to play on the new course. Coordinated by PGA Pro Tom McKinney of Fox Den Golf Course in Stowe, Ohio, four area professionals have donated their time teaching 14-person classes at the hospital.

Edwin Shaw conducted three series of classes in 1989 and has had three already this year, with more scheduled.

Cinson said the hospital had envisioned a nine-hole course but opted to begin with three holes and the practice facilities to make it a learning center "with the hope of expanding it."

"We want a clubhouse with a facility to adapt equipment for the handicapped," she said.

Cinson tempered any optimism, saying, "People have given a lot, but we still need more."

She said $20,000 of the $60,000 received from the World Series of Golf has been spent on artificial Mod Sod and grass practice greens, a driving range, equipment for classes, a video and book library, and brochures.
Murphy new sales manager at Jacobsen

Jacobsen Division of Textron in Racine, Wis., has named Howard H. Murphy national sales manager.

Murphy is a 1971 graduate of Cleveland (Ohio) State University. He is responsible for managing the Jacobsen’s sales staff, domestic distributor relations and national account sales.

ParCar reports promotions

Columbia ParCar Corp. in Deerfield, Wis., has announced that Oliver Julien has been named director of engineering and quality assurance and Ben Sherwood is the new director of marketing and sales. Julien has directed engineering and new product development at Tennant Co. in Minneapolis, Minn., Polaris Snowmobile in Roseau, Minn., and Fort Motor Co. in Dearborn, Mich.

Sherwood previously worked for Outboard Marine Corp. as national product group manager for Johnson & Evinrude Outboard Products, and has owned and operated a Chevrolet dealership.

Elsewhere...

Southern Turf Nurseries has named Ron Gelvin general manager of the Lake Wales, Fla., production farm and Bill Curnow sales manager for the Florida and Caribbean territory. Gelvin has been involved in agricultural management for more than 25 years. He has served as professor of farm and ranch management at Northwestern A&M College in Miami, Okla.

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Scott appointed SyncroFlo golf sales manager

SyncroFlo, Inc., of Atlanta, Ga., a national pumping system manufacturer, has named Bob Scott national golf systems sales manager.

Scott’s duties will include coordinating development of distribution and to serve as a liaison to irrigation consultants and golf course architects.

He has more than 18 years of experience in the irrigation industry. Prior to joining the firm, he

Eubanks brings customer service expertise to the Club Group team.

His recent book, "Winning the New Service Game," will be available this year, and his service consulting business has expanded to all industries.

Eubanks is a member of the PGA of America and is a former head golf professional at Best Tree Country Club in Atlanta.

All those golfers who blame the green when they miss a putt have just lost their last excuse. Introducing the Greensmaster® 1000 from Toro. The most advanced walk greens mower ever built. Now you can manicure your putting surfaces to a level you've never experienced before. And achieve superior playability as evidenced by a faster, truer ball roll.

A special air flow basket design packs clippings evenly and keeps them from being deposited back on your greens. Accessories for the Greensmaster 1000 add all the finishing touches to your greens, including a micro-cut bedknife and optional quick up, quick down grooming reel.

Ease of operation is essential for a consistent quality of cut. That's just the reason for Toro's exclusive loop handle. It's ergonomically designed to fit the operator's natural hand position for easy steering. Greater handle area allows short or tall operators the same comfort. Even turn arounds are easier which keeps the operator from having to struggle with the machine.

End of line.
Winter kill

Continued from page 1

The cost to replace the greens was $105,000. Play was down 50 percent in June and early July, knocking revenues off about $100,000, according to Stevens. “People don’t come to play and they don’t stay to eat and drink. It adds up,” he said.

Two Houston area courses — The Club at Falcon Point and Lochinvar Golf Club — came through the freeze better than most because they were planted in bentgrass, Stevens said. But most suffered. Between 50 and 100 percent of the hybrid Bermuda on overseeded greens was lost in Texas, according to Richard Duble, extension turfgrass specialist at Texas A&M University. The damage extended from Corpus Christi, up the Gulf Coast to Fort Arthur and from there north.

“I’ve got one green that was pretty bad and the rest are spotty,” said Tom Fox, superintendent at Oso Beach Municipal Golf Course in Corpus Christi and president of the Texas Golf Coast Superintendents Association. “It’s the worst I’ve seen in 22 years here.”

“We hit them with about two tons of Milorganite. It’s a good, safe fertilizer that stimulates root growth.”

Ironically, courses that didn’t overseed with ryegrass suffered less damage. “I don’t know why,” Fox said. “You’d have expected the extra cover to help, not hurt.”

Rockport Country Club a little farther north along the coast had a “little” winter kill and Riverside Municipal Golf Course at inland Victoria “lost a couple of greens,” Fox said. But for the most part, the Gulf Coast and inland valley escaped the severe damage suffered to the north in Houston, Dallas and Austin. Courses in Fox’s area have benefited from the extra business as north Texas golfers have ventured south to find better playing conditions.

“In Houston people don’t call to ask for a tee time. They call to ask how many temporary greens you have. Golfers just don’t like them,” Fox said.

The damage extended well eastward. J. Hal Richburg, immediate past president of the Louisiana-Mississippi Golf Course Superintendents Association and head superintendent at Belle Terre Country Club in LaPlace, La., reported extensive damage throughout the two-state area.

“I replaced all 19 greens,” he said of his own course. “There were seven or eight greens that were killed and the rest damaged. It was a good excuse to do them all. It cost about $33,000. Nobody was playing anyway because of the conditions, so it seemed just as well to do them.”

According to Richburg, Louisiana courses that had to replace all or some of their greens included Santa Maria Country Club in Baton Rouge, New Orleans Country Club, Metairie Country Club, English Turn Country Club in Gretna (home of the USF&G Classic), Bayou De Siard Country Club in Monroe, Chateau Country Club and Old Harbor Country Club.

Mississippi courses included Diamond Head in Bay St. Louis, Shreveport Country Club, he said.

“The newer courses with sandier greens were hurt most,” Richburg said. “The older ones didn’t seem to get hit so bad. The older ones probably had more clay. They held the water better, froze and protected the grass. The sandy greens dried out with the wind and were hurt more by the cold. There was no killer frost before the cold, either, that would have forced the grass into dormancy.”

The damage has meant a booming business for nurseries whose plants survived the cold.

“We’ve been straight out,” said Tom Nalls, director of golf course sales and service with Southern Turf Nurseries in Omega, Ga., which has answered urgent requests for sprigs from the Carolinas to Texas “We’ve been concentrating on replacing greens. But in a lot of cases we’ve had to just ship merchandise rather than put it in ourselves. The courses have had to put it in because we’re just too busy.”

Nalls said it takes 2,500 to 3,000 bushels of sprigs to re-do 18 average greens. He has already sent more than 50,000 bushels to Texas this year, he said.

“Our price has stayed about the same as last year. But there have been big increases in some areas,” Nalls said.

There is little superintendents could do to minimize the damage during “one of the worst freezes I’ve ever seen,” Nalls said. “There is no way any superintendent should be considered negligent. The damage was just too widespread.”

Medrano plans to put hay on First Colony’s greens this winter and soak then with water to build a protective layer of ice if similar conditions appear likely.

“But I really don’t know what you can do,” said Rethlake, the club’s assistant pro. “It was a freak of nature.”

The problem is even greater for superintendents in the Carolinas. “We’ve been straight out,” said Tom Fox, president of the Texas Gulf Superintendents Association.

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What makes the new Greensmaster 1000 the standard others will be imitating? For starters, its 11-bladed reel gives the smoothest cut available with a 1.66 in. clip. Next is its front-balanced weight design. Competitive walk greens mowers have their weight centered in the rear making them susceptible to ‘riding up’ and inconsistent handling. The result: uneven cutting. The Greensmaster 1000 changes all that. Its weight is centered up front giving you unmatched straight tracking, greater penetration and a uniform cut.

If you’d like to give your greens the finest putting surface possible from a walk greens mower, you need the new Greensmaster 1000. Nothing handles like it. Nothing cuts like it. And no other walk greens mower can match its overall performance. For a demonstration, call your local Toro distributor or contact Toro at the address below.

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Continental buys bridge line from DeBourgh

Continental Manufacturing, Inc. of Alexandria, Minn., has acquired the Town & Country Bridge line from DeBourgh Manufacturing of Minneapolis.

Continental is a diversified manufacturer with divisions in prefabricated pedestrian, vehicular, and utility bridging systems, automotive collision repair, and custom-designed automated equipment manufacturing.

Continental began as a prefabricated bridge manufacturer in 1972. Officials said this acquisition will enhance Continental's position as North America's largest manufacturer of custom-designed prefabricated bridges. Continental Bridge will continue to manufacture and market its bridges from its Alexandria headquarters.

Jacobsen presents scholarship to turf student

Jacobsen Division of Textron has awarded a scholarship to golf course operations to Tom McAlister, a student at Lake City (Fla.) Community College.

McAlister is enrolled in the school's turfgrass program. In announcing the award, Jacobson Regional Sales Manager George Hollander praised the school for its "great job of providing these skilled people, and Jacobsen is pleased to help advance the program."

The presentation was made during an awards banquet sponsored by Jacobsen and its Florida distributors.

Briefs...

Golfix, Ltd. of Ponte Vedra, Fla., announced it has appointed Complete Golf Services Co. of Phoenix, Ariz., to represent its products in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Southern California.

Ciba-Geigy's Pennant liquid herbicide now has a 24(c) special local need label for use in commercial sod production in Florida. This is the first time Pennant applications have been allowed on turf. The herbicide was initially labeled for use on ornamental plants in 1987. Currently, the pre-emergence herbicide can only be used in Florida on commercially grown St. Augustinegrass.

LABS Systems, the publisher of TRIMS Grounds Management Software, has signed international marketing agreements with Sadamato Materiel D'Irrigation in France and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in the United Kingdom.

Bator

Continued from page 12

in the Northeast I want to talk to if I have any questions." Bator said designing and building courses has been the most enjoyable part of his 28 years in the business, "although my forte is probably restoring old Rembrandts (like Oak Hill, Pine Valley and Merion)," he said.

Asked to pick his favorite course, Bator said it was too close to call between Pine Valley and Merion. In both cases, he mentioned the free reign given him by Ransome at Pine Valley and the green committees at Merion.

There are no other U.S. courses where Bator would like to try his hand, although he mentioned a fascination for Scotland's Ballybunion.

"It would be a different experience to host a British Open," he said. "The superintendents over there care for courses the old-fashioned way. They have very little money. They rely on God and nature."

High Pointe GC in Traverse City

High Pointe GC in Traverse City, Michigan, is exposed to extremes of nature and man. This course demands a great deal from its turfgrass... that's why it's wall-to-wall Oregon grown fine fescue.

Architect Tom Doak desired a links-type course with low maintenance qualities. Finescue filled that bill. Now, superintendent Dan Pillard finds that thousands and thousands of dollars have been saved establishing the turf, and in maintenance costs, over other species.

And since it's from Oregon grown seed, they know the turf will stay manageable, predictable and playable.

Detroit society cites Hancor, Inc.

The Detroit Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers awarded Hancor, Inc. the Process Award and the Grand Award for its storm drainage product, Hancor Hi-Q pipe.

Hancor's marketing manager, Bill Altematt, and project engineer, Matt Ankrom, received the awards at the society's annual awards banquet held in Troy, Mich., in April.

Hancor's Hi-Q pipe competed against other non-automotive plastic products manufactured in northwest Ohio, northeast Indiana, and southern Michigan for five awards — The Product, Process, Design, Application, and the Erik Erikson awards.

The five winners then competed for the Grand Award recognizing the best product among the five. Hi-Q is a polyethylene pipe with a corrugated exterior and smooth interior. Its smooth interior allows Hi-Q to carry more water than other pipes traditionally use for storm drainage. Its corrugated exterior makes Hi-Q strong enough to be installed under highways.

The Process Award honors the innovative processing equipment Hancor has made to plastic processing equipment to make Hi-Q.
Stewart scores an ace with 'A Tribute to Golf'  

BY PETER BLAIS  

So you’ve got to make room on the coffee table for this one.  

"A Tribute to Golf" makes you reflect, makes you appreciate, makes you laugh. And more importantly, at least in the world of Stewart’s 240-page collection of art, photography and literature celebrating the game of golf.  

Inside are hundreds of like illustrations and photographs that will keep fond memories of the game burning bright even while winter snows are piling up outside the windows of northern dwellers.  

The art and photography alone justify the $59.95 price tag, making the literary efforts a sort of free dessert. And the pastry cart is loaded with a variety of delectable goodies.  

Among my favorites are: "The Story of a Tee-Club" by Blackheath Club poet-laureate Thomas March; "The Sole of Golf" by P.A. Valde; "Zen Golf" by Gordon Weaver; "The Drama of Golf" by Arnold Haultain; "The Happy Hacker" by Jim Bishop; "Out of the Depths" by Tom Morrissey; and the poem "A Golfer's Wish" by Edgar A. Guest.  

Even a literary boor like myself, who enjoys poetry as much as rust on my Toyota, can appreciate Guest’s closing lines:  

But every golfer I'll know,  

Why gold and fame I'd sacrifice  

If but some fairy, good, would show  

Me how to drive without a slice  

Tree support discussed in Duckbill book  

An eight-page specification brochure for Duckbill Professional Tree Supports has been produced by Foresight Products.  

The four-page booklet contains complete detailed drawings and specifications of components for all Duckbill Tree Support models, which are used to support trees up to 10 inch caliper and larger.  

Landscape architects will be able to transfer drawings and specs directly from the new brochure to their own planting details.  

The Duckbill Professional Tree Guying kits include three pre-assembled guy lines, each consisting of a Duckbill anchor, galvanized steel cable turnbuckle, tree collar and all necessary hardware.  

Duckbill models have holding capacities from 300 to 5,000 pounds. One kit secures one tree, and no roots or stakes remain above ground to injure people or damage equipment.  

The average time required to guy one tree with three anchors is five to ten minutes.  

For further information call or write: Foresight Products Inc., 6540 East 60th Drive, Commerce City, Colo. 80022; 303-296-8455.  

<NEW LITERATURE>

Fun profit topics of Fla. guide  

A full-color, 160-page guide to Florida’s major golf-oriented resorts and best golf courses has been published by Sentinel Books.  

Travel and golf writer Edward Schmidt, Jr.’s book targets avid and casual golfers, nongolfing spouses, meeting planners, executives and others looking for information about the state’s best resorts and golf courses.  

Each of the 40 resort reviews includes a four-color photo layout, a schematic of the signature course and a detailed information box.  

Florida Golf Getaways is available in retail and wholesale outlets for $19.95 or mail $23.50 (includes tax and postage) to:  

The Orlando Sentinel, P.O. Box 1100, Orlando, Fla. 32802.  
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The Pacomonitor Flow Sensor provides direct flow sensing and sequencing with visual indication in both GPM and percentage of flow. It is field adjustable from a single point, with the system in operation.

The manufacturer estimates 25 percent operating cost savings over identically sized conventional systems. Each system is hydrostatically, electrically and hydraulically tested to 10 percent flow before shipment. Shipping time is two to four weeks.

For more information contact PACO Pumps Inc., 845 92nd Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94604-2924 or call 415-639-3200. Circle No. 307

Circle No. 303

Energy and water savings with new Paco suction pump

Paco Pumps, Inc. of Oakland, Calif. has introduced a new Pacofo 9000-ES end suction pump, factory-assembled booster systems offering low cost, maximum flexibility and energy savings.

With stainless steel manifolds from three to 16 inches in duplex and triplex configurations, it offers flows of more than 3,500 USGPM and heads to 400 feet. It utilizes 25 distinct sizes of high efficiency end suction pumps, each with impeller trimmed to precise requirements and motors sized accordingly. The pumps exhibit a broad band efficiency to ensure low operating costs throughout the duty cycle.

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Four new quality seeds released by Seed Research

Seed Research of Oregon has released four, high-quality proprietary turfgrass varieties.

SR 4200 represents the next generation in the development of dwarf-type perennial ryegrasses. It is a leafy, fine-textured turfgrass that has high tillering ability and a bright, dark green color that will produce a very dense, attractive turf. SR 4200 was rated number one for color in the 1988 Rutgers University perennial ryegrass trials.

SR 5000 Chewings fescue was bred for a dark green color, high-quality appearance and improved summer performance.

The new Chewings fescue has improved shade tolerance and high levels of Acremonium-type endophyte. It forms a dense, low-growing turf that tolerates relatively close mowing and is a good choice for low-maintenance, shady areas.

SR 8200 is Seed Research's newest tall fescue. A dwarf-type tall fescue, it has several maintenance advantages. A slower growth rate reduces mowing.

The dark green color allows reductions in nitrogen application without sacrificing appearance.

It has excellent shade, wear and cold tolerance; tolerates low mowing; survives in poor soils; tolerates drought conditions due to a deep and well-developed root system.

SR 2000 Kentucky bluegrass is a low-growing bluegrass with a dark green color. It has moderately wide leaves so it can be readily mixed with fine-textured tall fescue varieties.

SR 3000 has excellent heat and drought tolerance and high wilt resistance. It provides an excellent, dense stand of turf in areas of varying light.

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• Available in 15", 18" and 24" bars.

For more information circle #154

SOIL CONDITIONER said to reduce water usage and runoff loss
Isolite has been introduced to the United States by New Golf Concepts, Inc.
Touted as a breakthrough soil conditioner, Isolite has the ability to reduce water usage as much as 50 to 65 percent, runoff by 90 percent and improve turfgrass quality, a combination that could mean substantial savings for many golf courses.
Isolite is a porous ceramic made of diatomite crusts. It is lightweight, porous and prevents the escape of fertilizer.
The company says that even in clay soil, air permeability and water drainage are excellent, enhancing root growth while preventing root decay.
Research reveals Isolite contains no environmentally harmful elements.
Developed in Japan over a nine-year period, it has been in use in that country for three years at 200 courses.
For more information write New Golf Concepts Inc., 8711 Wolff Court, Suite 220, Westminster, Col. 80039 or call 303-426-4383, Circle No. 304

MELROE introduces three new compact Bobcat mini-excavators
The Melroe Company has introduced a line of three new Bobcat compact hydraulic excavators with digging depths ranging from 80 inches to 121 inches that represent the first North American-built mini-excavators.
The model 231 is the largest in the line, measuring the 92 inches tall and 61 inches wide. It has a maximum digging depth of 121 inches and dumping height of 115 inches. It is powered by a 45-horsepower Kubota, liquid-cooled diesel engine with a maximum travel speed of 1.64 miles per hour.
The model 225 measures 94 inches tall and 55 inches wide. It has a digging depth of 92 inches and dumping height of 99.6 inches. Its 23.1 horsepower engine attains a top speed of 1.1 miles per hour.
The smallest is the model 220, measuring just 85 inches tall and 39 inches wide. It has an 80-inch digging depth and 84.6-inch dumping height. It's 13.5-horsepower engine can accelerate to 1.1 miles per hour. The 220 is equipped with rubber tracks.
Three all models feature a full-width open cab for easy maintenance access and a rubber-mounted engine for quiet operation.
All also come with auxiliary hydraulics as standard equipment for use with hydraulic attachments such as an hydraulic breaker.
Melroe has also introduced several attachments that fit many of its Bobcat attachment loaders.
An angle broom attachment with a 68-inch straight sweep width (62 inches when fully angled) is compact enough to get into tight corners and against walls and fences. It is ideal for sweeping sidewalks, driveways and small parking areas.
An industrial broom attachment built on the framework of the grader attachment loaders has a seven-foot sweep that makes it ideal for larger parking lots.
The long wheelbase helps it work on uneven terrain.
A new hydraulic tree transplanter attachment for the 700 and 800 Series skid steer loader is also available. The four curved digging blades enhance tree survival compared to straight blades. It is capable of producing four standard rootball sizes.
For more information contact Leroy Anderson, Melroe Company, P.O. Box 8013, Fargo, North Dakota 58108 or call 701-241-8700, Circle No. 306
Golf Course Marketplace

To reserve space in this section, call Simone Lewis, 813-576-7077

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Continued from page 36

Golf Course News 37
Future Golf removes boredom from range

BY MARK LESLIE

Imagine. You're at Augusta National Golf Club. The par 3, 155-yard 12th hole, to be exact. The swirling winds, water and sand facing you belies the fact it is a truly difficult hole...

Wait a minute. You haven't driven more than 10 miles from your Chicago home. You are probably in the 1,000s on the list of hopefuls to ever join the fabled Augusta Club. Plus, you're indoors.

You see, you are actually at Future World, the fulfillment of a dream of avid golfer Thomas Ruth.

Ruth's imagination was working overtime on the practice range one day. The Barrington, Ill., attorney didn't have time during his lunch hour to play a round of golf. And he was "getting pretty bored just banging balls." So he played his home course in his imagination, and now we can all play our courses in our imagination — at Ruth's Future Golf.

Located in Crystal Lake, Ill., outside Chicago, Future Golf is a complete practice facility. Its 10,000-square-foot building contains sand traps and two large greens. It has 10 tee areas looking out onto a "course" that features six "target" greens, complete with sand traps and pins. Greens range from 25 to 275 yards from the tees.

Keeping a hole at his home course in mind, the golfer drives toward one of the greens. He then gauges the remaining distance to the green and hits his second shot to whatever green is the correct distance away.

If the golfer hits into a trap, he just moves onto one of the two sanding areas within the building and chips to a green. Once on the green, he puts on one of the indoor greens. One green is "tough, very slick and undulating" while the second is moderately difficult, Ruth said. "We've had an unbelievable reception. Everybody likes it," said Ruth.

Ruth said Future Golf has won the hearts of many beginning golfers.

"Nobody is in front of you. There's nobody behind. And you don't lose any balls," he said. "It's also fun because people come in with their kids. A kid can play a par 3 course and see how many birdies he can get out of the hole."

Ruth's partners in Future Golf are Stonehenge General Manager Dean Nissen and the deceased Charles Maddox Jr. Maddox's father, Charles Sr., a longtime golf course architect and owner of Stonehenge, designed the target course.

As for the facility:

• The target greens are built of sand mixed with polyester, which remains soft so that balls don't bounce. When winter hits, a snowplow can clean off the perimeter of the greens.

• The indoor greens have a sand base and artificial grass that needs only an occasional brushing to keep their nap.

• Lights on the outdoor range allow 24-hour play.

• The tee areas in the private enclosures have close-cropped and rough artificial turf so that balls can be teed up or hit from the turf as a golfer would on a regular course.

• High-capacity heating allows golfers to play in sub-zero weather with sweaters.

• Groups as large as 50, playing in foursomes, can hold tournaments. Ruth said the lone problem in tournaments is judging the distance to the pin after the drive. "You get out on the 200-yard hole and it's hard to judge the distance... As for putting, we just have a pattern of puts and everyone puts the same — two long, two short, two uphill, two downhill and a side hill perhaps."

Profit is the only obstacle for Future Golf. Ruth feels now that some misconceptions have been discovered, Future Golf is on its way to being in the black.

Ruth said the partners opened the facility in the fall of 1988 as a private club with the mistaken belief that they had to get people to return more than once "to get comfortable with the concept. It takes a little imagination, you know. But we were wrong. We found that people get right into it."

Discovering that play dropped considerably in the summertime, they changed Future Golf to semi-private status last January, accepting the $50-per-year family membership basically just to control tee times in the winter. Ruth reported summer play has since increased by at least 50 percent.

"The advantage of membership is that you can book tee times. During the winter, also, we booked on weekends until 4 p.m.," he said.

Ruth said his group plans to franchise Future Golf "as soon as we get profitable."

He said they plan to pay $8 for nine holes and $10 for 18 holes for members. There is a $2 surcharge for non-members during the winter months. In comparison, he said greens fees at area golf courses are $15 and up weekdays and $18 and up on weekends.

During winter, golfers can practice for 36 per hour and $10 per hour.

A manager, assistant manager and two maintenance crew are the only employees necessary to run the facility.

Now look! You defied that wind and nailed your course drive. The ball is within two feet of the pin. Now drop that birdie putt.

Pittsburgh borough planning year-round practice facility

A new driving range and golf training facility that will allow area golfers to practice their game year-round is planned in Pittsburgh's Jefferson Borough.

Pittsburgh architect Alan Jesse Cuteri said construction of The Practice 'T Country Club will begin in mid-August.

For the $2.8-million project, Cuteri has designed a driving range with 140 tees. Twenty tees will be heated for winter use. There will also be a 10-hole pitch-and-run area, complete with sand bunkers.

An indoor practice area and golf training center will be features of an 11,000-square-foot building that will be erected on the site. The building also will include a pro shop, a 75-seat restaurant, banquet facilities for up to 100 people and offices. Babysitting services will be offered at the facility and locker rooms and showers will be added at a later date.

The Practice 'T Country Club will be open to the public, but memberships also will be sold.

"Obviously, The Practice 'T Country Club will not be a run-of-the-mill driving range or pitch-and-putt course," Cuteri said. "We are creating a country club atmosphere where serious golfers can have the facilities and amenities they need to hone their skills. It also will be a place where beginners can learn the game with professional instruction, under virtually ideal conditions."

The Practice 'T is patterned after a similar facility in Atlanta, Cuteri said. It will occupy a 50-acre site.

The driving range is scheduled to open in September. The remainder of the complex is expected to open next January or February.

Owner of the facility is the Practice 'T Country Club, Inc. Raymond Sprites is president of the corporation and John Kocak is treasurer.
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