**Oil leak detector: From Napa to world**

By Mark Leslie

Don Martinez imagined his homemade invention might see the light of day outside Silverado Country Club in Napa, Calif., where he was mechanic and assistant superintendent. But did he believe it would be standard equipment on machines like the United States Golf Association?

Now, thanks to Bob Holland of B.H. Sales in Santa Rosa, Calif., Martinez' hydraulic oil-leak detection device is part of all new Toro Co. 3100 Series triplex mowers, and it is expected to be adopted to mowers already in the field.

The result could save golf course crews from "disasters," superintendents say.

Frank Albino, superintendent at Lafayette Country Club in Jamesville, N.Y., said if the unit stops one leak it will pay for itself. He wishes he had had it on one of his triplex mowers last fall when a hose sprung a leak and, by the time the operator noticed it, 2,000 square feet of bentgrass was destroyed on one green.

"It can be a big disaster," said Albino, who resodded the green. "You put a green out of commission, have to repair it and get it back to the shape it was in. It can take a long time."

"I've seen entire fairways stripped up and down with oil," he said. "What you would do in that case depends on what type of fairway you have. Some guys might resod. Others might lay in new bentgrass." Albino believes the pine tree decline in Florida soon may become a problem in the Midwest. The tree pathologist spoke at the recent meeting of the Florida Turf Grass Association at Interlachen Country Club.

"It would identify golf information sources by describing studies available on the industry, operations, characteristics of golfers, economic impact of golf, financial performances of golf courses, and the future of the industry," said Martinez.

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**GOOD NEWS FOR PINE TREES**

LONGWOOD, Fla. — Dr. Roger Webb believes the pine tree decline in Florida soon may be reversed. The tree pathologist spoke at the recent meeting of the Florida Turf Grass Association at Interlachen Country Club.

Dr. Webb's research indicates that the decline is due to a reduction in soil acidity resulting from the use of groundwater high in calcium and magnesium.

His program calls for direct injection of fungicides and micronutrients into the vascular system of the affected tree. The process is expensive, but has shown great promise, he said.

**GROUNDS TRAINING AVAILABLE**

A training manual, videotape and employee handbook comprise the new right-to-know training program that is now available from the Professional Grounds Management Society. Occupational Safety and Health association laws mandate that employers compile and maintain information concerning chemicals and hazardous materials in the workplace and to train employees accordingly.

PGMS' training program, available to members and non-members, can be bought in various packages costing from $10 to $265.

**JOEL JACKSON AT DISNEY WORLD**

Joel Jackson has accepted a position at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista. Jackson will supervise the grow-in of the two new Disney courses.

Bobby Perez has been promoted to golf course superintendent at Islesworth Country Club in Windermere.

**GOVERNOR'S LAND NABS HILTON**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — John David Hilton has been named golf course superintendent for The Governor's Land at Two Rivers.

Hilton will oversee construction and opening of the 18-hole golf course designed by architect Tom Fazio.

Hilton previously was course superintendent at the Port America Golf & Country Club in Fort Washington, Md. He also was superintendent at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, N.C.; Tuckahoe Creek Course at Country Club of Virginia in Richmond; Beau Rivage Golf Course and Cape Fear Country Club, both of Wilmington, N.C., and Cobb's Glenn Golf Course in Anderson, S.C.
Communications crucial on Japan courses

Continued from page 22

overseeding, they simply close the zoysia and open the bentgrass green when the cold descends.

Fairways are generally zoysia and rarely overseeded. That eliminates the need for fall verti-cutting and reduces clippings. With landfill space at a premium, clipping removal is strongly discouraged, Baranski said.

Maintenance facilities are generally larger than in the United States. Office areas alone often have more square footage than entire U.S. maintenance sheds.

Japanese managers rarely have private offices, instead working in the same room with their employees. "The head guy sits at the back," Baranski explained. "The 10 guys under him sit directly in front of him. There are 10 more desks in front of them, and then 10 more and 10 more and so on.

"There are no partitions so everyone can see what everyone else is doing. If you need to talk to someone, you can walk over to his desk and solve the problem right away. It's real easy to get work done in that system."

While Baranski likes some aspects of the Japanese work system, he dislikes others. For instance, every Japanese maintenance crew member has his own desk and keeps daily records of his activities.

"I think it's a waste of time," he said. "But that's what the owner and management have requested. I try to keep their paperwork to a minimum. But they still spend 30 to 45 minutes a day recording the work they've done."

Superintendents are called "keepers" in Japan. No formal educational programs exist. But keepers read a great deal. Thirty to 40 golf publications deal with course maintenance. They are made available not only to superintendents, but also managers, directors and club members so they can become better informed.

The general manager rather than the keeper makes management decisions. The general manager hires and fires employees. Firing is infrequent. Even the least productive 18-year-old is likely to stay with the same company for life.

Compared to the United States where a superintendent can go through 30 or more 18-year-olds before finding one with the desire and potential who justifies spending extra time and money in training, Baranski said.

"My time in Japan has changed my ideas about how to deal with employees," Baranski said. "I have to find some value in everyone who works for me because I can't get rid of them. In the past I may not have wanted to take the time to find value in an employee. In Japan, they make you take the time."

The team concept is strong in Japan, Baranski said. Older crew members take younger ones under their wings and train them.

"Some things they teach are good and some not so good," Baranski said. "For example, when I first got there the acting keeper mixed chemicals by hand — no gloves, no mask. He just poured the mix into the spray tank. At last I got him to wear gloves, anyway."

The Japanese government severely restricts chemical use, but not necessarily in what Baranski considers the safest manner. The prefecture in which his course is located limits use to 2,000 kilograms of chemicals per year. But it doesn't restrict the type of chemicals nor is it concerned with active ingredients, he added. Weight is the important thing.

"It forces people to use higher concentrations," Baranski said. "You wouldn't use a 5-percent granular product because it uses too much of your weight limit. You'd use a concentrate instead. The result could be a much bigger problem if there is a spill or some type of accident."

Finally, the Japanese use more hand labor than do Americans. For example, walking greens mowers are used far more in Japan than the United States, Baranski concluded.

Many appointments reported in west Texas

Snyder, Texas — The West Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association has announced several appointments in the region.

New golf superintendent appointments in west Texas include: Lanny Ivy, Anson CC; Robert Crockett, Canadian CC; Terry Smith, Childress CC; Al Ramsey, Clarendon CC; Charles Pack, Knox City CC; Bryan Daniels, Lake Ridge CC, Lubbock; Richard Piper, Paducah CC; Gary Cudney, Pampa CC; Sonny Taylor, Pecos County Municipal, Fort Stockton; Brad Fluitt, Brentwood CC, San Angelo; Mark Hamersley, Sundown GC; Roger Ray, Tule Lake CC, Tulia and James Hubbard, Winters CC; Derwin Price, Fairway Oaks CC, Abilene, and John Haun, Palo Duro GC, Canyon; were appointed assistant superintendents.

Appointed pro/managers were Paul Barlett, Canyon CC, Danny Riddle, Floydada Country, and Eddie Baker, Southwest GC, Amarillo.