New year, new model for paper

Happy New Year and welcome to the 1991 model of Golf Course News! If you haven’t noticed, there are significant changes in this issue—all in the design of the publication. This redesign is so that you can get more out of Golf Course News.

You will be getting quite a bit more from our editorial product in 1991. The features our editorial staff have planned will be informative and designed to help you do your job better. The features for 1991 are as follows:

January: GCSSA Conference Preview, Architect and Builder of the Year (1990)
February: GCSSA Show Issue
March: Equipment Report: Greens Mowers
April: Chemical Report: Pesticides
May: Equipment Report: Golf Cars
June: Special Report: Grounds Management at 30 Top Courses
July: Turfgrass Report: Bluegrass sod
August: Special Report: Golf Course Management Companies
September: Chemical Report: Specialty Chemicals
October: Equipment Report: Irrigation and Paving Stations
November: Special Report: Architects and Builders
December: Special Holiday Report: “All I want for Christmas is...”

Designate ASGCA members in listing

To the Editor:

I appreciate and endorse the position that Golf Course News has found in the industry. The November issue, however, was disturbing because of the special newsletter which was published delineating golf course architects. I don’t find it equitable or just to be listed with individuals who have not met the standards and requisites of the American Society of Golf Course Architects without somehow discerning the difference in the individuals.

Membership into the ASGCA requires that stringent criteria be met, and sponsorship by three excellent individuals who have not and probably will never meet the requirements. Do you realize that the very people that ASGCA has made committee members and is trying to recruit are members of this newsletter who have not and probably will never meet the requirements.

I would suggest that your publication might start monthly inter-

view or biographies of the qualified architect in this country.

Continued success with your outstanding publication.

Sincerely,
Craig Scheiner, ASGCA
Kansas City, Mo.

Ask superintendent for irrigation specs

To the Editor:

Another interesting issue—your Golf Course News, October 1990.

I am taking this opportunity to respond to the irrigation article on new products, “Let your fingers do the watering.”

I am a golf course irrigation consultant. I have over 30 years in the irrigation business. Most of our projects are in the Southeast and Hawaii. We try to specify the correct system to the user’s request. The problem is, general contractors don’t have a superintendent on board when the system is designed and little input is given on what to use.

I’m very interested in writing a letter to you to give you a feeling on how I took your comparison of the five major suppliers of computer-operated controls. First, I strongly feel there are major differences in each. I do understand some of the major differences, but don’t pre-

tend to be an expert in the operation of each. I am encouraging you to do this concept again in the near future. By making direct contact to each company, they have given me the most positive or advantage they have over their competition. A lot of misunderstanding is out there today as to what each one really will do.

The salesman, of course, says he will do everything that the other one will do.

I feel this is something that the industry really needs. It is a very important exposure.

Best wishes to you for a continuing good publication.

Sincerely,
Don K. Burns
Irrigation Consultant

Try high rates of potassium

To the Editor:

Your November ‘90 publication of Golf Course News carried an article on page 3 about the problem of lack of water for California courses. Ironically, the same issue also had articles on too much water for California courses.

High potassium rates with a safe source such as sulfate of potash will help turfgrasses survive and recover from nearly all types of turf stress! I am aware of several turfgrass research universities currently involved in work to determine the relationships between high potassium sulfate rates and reduced turf stress, but I would like to hear from superintendents about their “in the real world” experiences on this topic.

Sincerely,
Dan Nason
3022 West 124th St.
Overland Park, Kansas

Need single information source

To the Editor:

We are all sincerely enjoying your publication—except for the omission of my name from your list of golf course architects in November.

The sky’s the limit for you, it seems, since our industry is in such need of a publication like yours.

In particular, we need more and in-depth information on how certain areas are dealing with wetlands legislation, and with limited maintenance materials (chemicals, etc.).

I wish you continual good luck.

All the best,
Ron Prichard
The Woodlands, Texas

Making resolutions

New year brings new resolutions, re-resolutions, and "If better-be- resolute-like-things.

The golf industry could perhaps make a corporate resolution just as you and I make our own. Then, again, aren’t all of corporate that corporate body?

OK, let’s resolve to:

• Continue to investigate methods of good land management, from pest management to disease control, wildlife protection practices, and runoff and ground water control. (Accolades to Pete Dye and others for their innovative designs at such places as Dye’s Old Marsh and the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island.)

• Support the United States Golf Association’s multimillion-dollar research effort into chemical use and its effects on turf management. (Thanks to the many who have fought to make the initial $35 million available.)

• Be less suspicious and more understanding of "those dreaded nemeses" — the government agencies that regulate zoning, the environment and ecology. They’re human, just as we are in the industry. Are (Outdoorsmen, including golfers, are on the staffs of these agencies. And U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Associate Administrator Lewis S.W. Crampton told the Golf Summit 90 crowd in November that "there are friends of golf" at the EPA. If so, let’s find and nurture them.)

• Be straight with the public, whether they be neighbors of a golf course, or "environmentalists" itching for a fight. More than one architect have found that spelling out the problems, proposing solutions, and generally being bendable, are an immense help in public hearings and negotiations.

• Join those groups that have been opposing golf courses because of their real motives and their lack of water for California courses. Most people lack the time, money or resources to get out on the course and play the game.

In the entire country there is only one course designed for the handicapped player, and that is by a hospital (Edwin Shaw Akron, Ohio).

Greens fees are most often prohibitive for the young players. Hey, even I, who is a bit of a teenager. That young person would be the adult golfer of the year 2000 — Continued on page 13
Confusion over survey

The wording of a question caused confusion in our October survey of computer controllers for irrigation systems. The results were that cost projections by the manufacturers did not compare “apples to apples.”

We regret the wording of the question. It read: “What would be the economic benefit at a new golf course that has five weather stations, is 6,500 yards long and is on 125 acres?”

Too many factors crucial to such an estimate were not included. Thus the great variance in the answers given.

As was said by Phillip S. Walter, The Toro Co. — Irrigation Division sales and marketing manager for golf irrigation: “No two installations are the same. So no two quotes are the same. Everything today is customized to your needs, what you want and how you want to run it ... and what alternatives are available.”

We suggest that superintendents considering a purchase contact the manufacturers directly for quotes.

Shaw takes over GCSAA administration

Joyce Shaw is the new director of administration for the GCSAA. Shaw formerly was assistant manager of human resources for Sallie Mae, a student loan servicing center in Lawrence. Shaw also was assistant manager of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Lawrence, Kan.

More architects

Four golf course architects and one builder were omitted from November’s listings.

The builder is Aldridge Niebur Golf of 1081 Indianwood Road, P.O. Box 14724, North Palm Beach, Fla. — Telephone number is 561-847-4696.

One of the architects is Ron Fried of 1600 Six Fines Drive, Suite 421, The Woodlands, Texas 77380.

Another Halsey Daray Golf of 8001 Grossmont Blvd., La Mesa, Calif. 92031-4884.

The third is Ted McAnlis of P.O. Box 14724, North Palm Beach, Fla. — Telephone number is 561-334-3808.

The fourth is Gene P. Hamm, 8417 Patrick St., Raleigh, N.C. — Telephone number is 919-847-4806.

Comment

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If he could afford to play in 1991. A panel at the summit told how women golfers are treated like second-class citizens at some golf courses. Not encouraged to return, they don’t, and they don’t, in record numbers.

Hold a summit at which people actually resolve the issues and plan actions to tackle them.

Continue to prayer breakfast, in some fashion or other, at the GCSAA’s International Golf Course Conference and Show. Contact John Ebel, of Barrington Hills (Ill.) Country Club, who is bowing out after a decade of arranging very successful breakfasts. Last year’s drew 200 to 300 people.

Too many of us too often want to look at ourselves through rose-colored glasses, yet scrutinize our neighbors with a magnifying glass. Being judgmental too often comes right back at you. The expression “what goes around comes around” is truth.

We at GOLF COURSE NEWS will continue to strive to keep the industry abreast of happenings around the country in an unbiased manner. We will try to see all — even ourselves — through a magnifying glass. In this issue we instituted a redesign to better organize the news. Please let us know how you feel about it.

Introducing a smoother rake at a smoother price

Notice anything different about Tour Smooth™, the new and affordable bunker rake from Standard Golf? We’d be surprised if you didn’t. It’s the all-American answer to Canada’s popular Accuform. And a much better buy! • Tour Smooth rakes are based on our long-lasting, hard working Duo-Rake, yet feature shorter teeth and a curved 15°, high-impact, molded plastic head. As the teeth rake the sand into place, the curved head follows behind, automatically leveling all those little ridges. Add our sturdy fiber-glass or aluminum handles, and you’ll have a smoothing tool that leaves the sand in perfect playing condition. • Why get trapped with an inferior — or more expensive rake?

Contact your nearby Standard Golf distributor and ask about Tour Smooth.

They’re the smoothest bunker rakes in the business.