Arizona scrutinizing water replenishment district

Proposed Phoenix-area ground water project would more fairly allocate water.

Mexico new frontier

Nicklaus, Burns follow in Joe Fingers' footsteps south of the border

Pebble Beach finances

Membership question will remain unanswered until July 2 at famed resort

Pebble Beach fix-up

Turning up the heat underground saves tiny 5th green from death

U.S. golf course supply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Fee</th>
<th>Municipal</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open before 1990</td>
<td>6,331</td>
<td>2,186</td>
<td>5,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opened in 1990</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opened 1st Qtr. '91</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Construction</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,862</td>
<td>2,315</td>
<td>5,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total of all courses when construction complete: 14,635

Source: NGF

COURSE MAINTENANCE

First-year bentgrass test results reported

TurfByte hobby now Patton 'modem operandi'

Regional reports from superintendents

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Alabama state employees invest in new courses

Architects to release permitting document

Courses approved and proposed

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Japanese memberships provide capital

How to win in TV interviews

Maintenance for the club manager

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Seed growers volunteer field-burning cuts

Allen James heads industry's RISE

Deere, Kohler step out to meet emissions laws

Developer submits chem-free plan

Sherman Hollow's Truax draws fire, support over Green Life use

By Peter Blais

HUNTINGTON, Vt. — Hoping to end a six-year battle to gain state environmental approval, Sherman Hollow developers will submit plans to manage the controversial golf course without pesticides or fertilizers.

Sherman Hollow, Inc. will present details of its organic turf management program at a July 25 hearing before the same Vermont State Environmental Board that voted 2-1 against the project last September because of fears regarding pesticide and fertilizer use.

The use of a non-toxic soil conditioner called Green Life, in conjunction with an organic program, will allow the course to be maintained without chemicals, according to Sherman Hollow President Paul Truax.

"This should remove concerns about the use of pesticides and fertilizers on the proposed golf course that, for the last six years, have prevented Sherman Hollow from receiving a golf course permit from the state of Vermont," Truax said.

Green Life has been researched and tested on several courses over the past 10 years by a Glendale, Calif., company hoping to make inroads into the environmentally conscious market.

Maintenance costs high all around

From staff reports

Paced by a double-digit increase in payroll taxes and employee benefits, golf course maintenance costs rose 7.8 percent at private country clubs in 1990, according to a recent survey of 250 facilities.

Last year's increase brings the national average figure to $72,928 per hole and continues the spiraling cost of golf course maintenance, which has jumped 500 percent in the past 20 years, reported the international accounting firm Pannell Kerr Forster in its annual publication Clubs in Town & Country.

The highest per-hole costs occurred in the Far West, $34,328. The South, $27,443; East, $25,143; and Midwest, $22,567 followed.

Nationally, payroll ($14,031) along with payroll taxes and employee benefits ($2,718) averaged 61.4 percent of per-hole maintenance costs. The $15,749 total is more than four times greater than the $3,680 spent on the same items 20 years ago.

Why have labor costs risen so dramatically? Golfers' demands for perfect conditions simply require greater numbers of employees.

Florida lawmakers put water law on hold

By Peter Blais

The Florida Legislature will delay action until next year on a proposed water tax that could greatly impact the state's $5.5 billion golf industry.

The Legislature adjourned last month before committees released bills to levy a 10-cent charge on every 1,000 gallons over a water user's allotment — a fee some estimate would cost many courses $20,000 to $30,000 annually.

GCSAA out $1.4M to McLoughlin

By Mark Leslie

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will appeal a May 9 jury verdict in a Topeka, Kan., federal district court awarding $1,457,742 to former Executive Director James McLoughlin.

The jury verdict awarded McLoughlin $457,742 for breach of a separation agreement and $1 million for libel — $500,000 compensatory damages and $500,000 punitive damages.

GCSAA attorney Robert Ochs said he would first file motions with Judge Richard Rogers for a new trial, and if that is denied, he will appeal the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit.
Florida water tax would help make more H₂O available

Continued from page 1

would conserve potable water by making more available Florida water tax would help make more H₂O available

Golf courses are already the major users of effluent and would like to use more, Brantley said. The problem is availability and cost. Some courses are located far from a reclaimed water facility, making it impossible or economically impractical to build pipelines needed to carry effluent to the course.

"Is it fair to charge courses more for potable water if reclaimed water isn't available?" Brantley asked. Industry officials also fear effluent prices could skyrocket since suppliers are not regulated by state government and are free to raise prices as they see fit. The effluent supplier for one Florida course recently quadrupled its price from 10 cents per 1,000 gallons to 40 cents, Brantley said.

"We'd like to see some sort of regulation of reclaimed water companies so prices don't go out of sight," the Florida Golf Council director said.

The Legislature heads back to Tallahassee in January to discuss reapportionment. It could also work on a reclaimed water facility, making it impossible or economically impractical to build pipelines needed to carry effluent to the course.

"We'd like to see some sort of regulation of reclaimed water companies so prices don't go out of sight," the Florida Golf Council director said.

But debate will continue between now and then, he assured. Industrial, agricultural and recreational users must obtain the consumptive use permits upon which the proposed tax is based.

Brantley said agriculture is likely to receive a tax exemption or some type of tax credit because most of the water it uses, agriculture suppliers argue, is returned to the water table. Golf courses do the same thing "and the water returned to the water table is usually much cleaner," he added.

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"Our John Deere equipment has been a big help this time around. I've got 15 John Deere machines that we've used in everything from course reconstruction to daily maintenance.

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Superintendent Chris Hague depends on a John Deere 1200 Bunker and Field Rake to help groom one of Hazeltine National's more than 100 bunkers for the 1991 U.S. Open.

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