Pedaling to par
Airplane mechanic takes mountain bike technology onto the golf course with a pedal-powered golf car.

Supers’ 10 deadly problems

By Peter Blais

Inability to communicate is the major sin committed by those involved in golf course maintenance, according to United States Golf Association agronomists.

Agronomist James Connolly of Willimantic, Conn., gave a talk entitled The Top 10 Sins of Golf Course Maintenance during the recent Maine Golf Turfgrass Conference and Show in Portland.

The Top 10 list resulted from a survey of USGA agronomists conducted last year at the request of a group of golf course owners. Twelve of the 14 USGA Green Section agronomists responded. Architectural comments were eliminated from the survey. But Connolly conceded architectural shortcomings — both outright architectural errors and outdated features like too-small greens or tees — were among the major problems superintendents face daily.

These 10 worst problems are listed according to the times they were mentioned by 12 of the agronomists with the United States Golf Association Green Section. Communications was listed the most times — 10 — and labor and equipment the least — 4.

Communications and Public Relations

Fast Green Speed

Use of Pesticides

Continuity of Club Officials

Pesticide Storage & Maintenance Bindg.

Tree management

Amount of Play

Labor

Equipment

These 10 worst problems are listed according to the times they were mentioned by 12 of the agronomists with the United States Golf Association Green Section. Communications was listed the most times — 10 — and labor and equipment the least — 4.

Water tax may cripple Florida courses

By Peter Blais

A water tax proposed by the Florida Legislature would have a "staggering" effect on the state’s golf industry, according to Bob Young, head of the Florida Turfgrass Association.

The proposal calls for a 10-cent tax on every 1,000 gallons over a water user's allotment, with the money funding water conservation studies and practices. Courses using effluent would not be affected.

Emerald Dunes Golf Club owner Raymon Finch said the bill is aimed

Continued on page 23

Tight money dampens optimism

By Mark Leslie

A "tremendous surge" of interest in golf course development is being met by a cautious, stand-pat attitude by banks, according to industry sources.

"There has been a tremendous surge of new business since Jan. 15, with people going forward planning their projects," said Jim Applegate, president of Gary Player Design Co. of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Jan. 15 was the deadline for...Continued on page 40

USGA to fund final research projects

By Peter Blais

Studies on golf course wildlife and the psychological benefits of the game’s playing fields are being considered for the final $300,000 in funding from the United States Golf Association's $2.8-million environmental research project.

The USGA will act by July on proposals concerning the effects of golf course maintenance on wildlife, managing wildlife on the course and the psychological impact of courses on people, according to Mike Kenna, research director for the USGA Green Section.

Studies on the psychological effects of courses have...Continued on page 21

Capacirty Use at Golf Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Courses</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>80.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Courses</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>75.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Courses</td>
<td>91.3</td>
<td>87.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: NGF
Proposed water tax would put squeeze on Florida courses

Continued from page 1

primarily at the agricultural indus-
tive vote before the Legislature ad-
annually.

The Florida Golf Council and the

"We want to do everything we can to help conserve water. But we don't want the state mandating that everyone use reclaimed water when there isn't enough available."

— Bob Brantley

The Florida Golf Council and the regional superintendent, sod
grower and athletic field associa-
tions are committed to working with
the state to find an equitable way to
conserving water, agreed Brantley
and Young.

"We need to conserve water," Young said. "We don't want to impose a tax as long as it is equitable."

Making the tax equitable requires
taking a course's seasonal watering
needs into consideration, Young
said. Monthly allotments should be
higher when courses traditionally
need more water — during the
summer, while overseeding or
growing in a new course —
and lower when the need drops, he
said.

The state's four water districts
and the Legislature have been very
cooperative, Young said.

"We've met many times. It's a
growing realization we must con-
sider something like this to con-
serve water," the FTA official said.
Florida's water shortage resulted
from several successive drought
years.

Heavy spring rains might help
Orlando, Young's home area, reach
its average 60-inch annual rainfall
this year, he said. But if the rains
stay away this summer, as they have
the past several years, the spring
downsputs will be of little value, he
added.

"The weather patterns have
changed the last few years," Young
said. "The timing isn't what it used
to be. We haven't been getting the
rain when we need it."

Non-golfers are generally
unsympathetic to the turf industry.
Many view it as wasteful in times of
drought, Young said.

"But the golf industry produces a
lot of revenue. People are starting
to realize the importance of golf to
the state. We want to be viewed as
part of the solution, not the prob-
lem," Young said.

Thompson, the FTA is helping
finance a $31,000-square-foot,
$700,000 environmental research
facility being built at the University
of Florida, Young said.

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