ENVIRONMENTAL CARE EXPANDS

ATLANTA, Ga. — Bruce K. Wilson, president of Environmental Care, Inc., has announced the opening of a new branch at 6990-D Peachtree Industrial Blvd. in Norcross.

Having expanded steadily since its beginning in 1968, Environmental Care's horticulturists work with fully certified and licensed staff to provide landscape maintenance, water management services, specialized turf care, interior spaces design, construction and maintenance, and light landscape construction.

Jack E. Mattingly, who headed the Los Angeles branch of Environmental Care, is heading the Atlanta branch.

EQUIPMENT MANAGERS' NEEDS TOPIC

LAWRENCE, Kan. — GCSAA plans this summer a special resource committee to develop seminars addressing the mechanical, regulatory and personnel aspects of the golf course equipment manager's job.

The resulting educational program will be introduced in greater detail at the equipment manager session of the GCSAA Conference and Show Jan. 30, 1993, at Anaheim, Calif.

GCSAA SEEKS INNOVATIVE IDEAS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — "The Innovative Superintendent," a series of presentations by GCSAA-member superintendents, will be a feature of the Jan. 28 afternoon session of the 1993 Conference and Show at Anaheim, Calif.

David M. Bishop, GCSAA director of education, said, "We are looking for superintendents willing to share their expertise. We seek current information and new ideas."

SAFETY HELP OFFERED SUPERS

SafetyMaster Corp., a distributor of commercial safety products, has announced it will donate 1 percent of revenues generated from golf course sales to help fund the scientific and educational efforts of GCSAA's Scholarship & Research Fund.

Its 81-page safety equipment catalog will be distributed to GCSAA members next spring.

ZELLERS GETS REAL DEL MAR POST

TUJUNA — Craig Forrest Zellers has been named superintendent of golf for Real Del Mar Golf Course, an 18-hole course under construction at Real Del Mar, a destination resort on the coast 12 miles south of Tijuana.

Zellers will oversee all maintenance operations, which, like the course, is scheduled to open for public play in the fall.

Zellers has more than 14 years of experience in the golf industry, most recently as the golf course superintendent for the Carlton Oaks Country Club in San Diego, Calif.

Turf pioneer Beard retires

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Dr. James B. Beard has retired from Texas A&M University after 35 years in turfgrass research and teaching, but plans to continue full-time involvement with the turfgrass industry.

The professor of turfgrass physiology and ecology in the university's department of soil and crop sciences has with wife Harriet authored five books and a laboratory manual. He authored 228 scientific papers and 316 technical articles.

He has given numerous invitational papers and been an adviser at international conferences and symposia in the United States, Canada, England, Europe, Far East, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia.

Dr. Beard pioneered investigations in turfgrass evapotranspiration, drought stress, metabolic basis of indirect heat stress, shade adaptation, wear tolerance, nitrogen and potassium stress and thatch bioengineering. Particularly hailed was his discovery of the spring root decline phenomenon in C-4 grasses.

Jensen promotes Kirchhoff

David Jensen Associates, Inc. has named Wayne Kirchhoff as project manager for the land planning and landscape architecture firm.

Kirchhoff earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Kansas State University in 1973 and has worked for design firms in Colorado, Kansas and Arizona.
It is a stunning contrast to the surrounding desert scene. The golf course is a lush expanse of common Bermudagrass bordered by date palms and Mediterranean tamarisk, or salt pines. The tamarisk had been planted for shade and a source of firewood. They are a fast-growing tree that can withstand the high salinity of the soil. The date palms provide shade and a cash crop to the ranch.

The course is notable in that it has all-grass bunkers, even though this seems odd in a desert. Fact is, the sand around Furnace Creek is so high in mineral content that, if it gets wet, it compacts much like concrete. Quality sand for the traps has been tried, but the sand was no match for the fierce winds that howl through the valley.

Throughout the golf course's existence, the job of maintaining it has bordered on the archaic. The water source for irrigation is a natural spring which pours from the nearby mountains. Water comes out of the mountain at a temperature of 87 degrees. It supplies abundant water through the winter months but dwindles in the heat of summer.

In the early years, the course was irrigated by the use of flood gates that filled the alfalfa fields with standing water. This flood irrigating continued until the early 1940s when galvanized irrigation pipes were finally laid into the course.

Once the sheep would graze across the fairways during the hot summer months and try to wallow in the water, the superintendent at Furnace Creek reported, "July didn't strike the fancy of many. Quality sand for the traps has been tried, but the sand was no match for the fierce winds that howl through the valley. Throughout the golf course's existence, the job of maintaining it has bordered on the archaic. The water source for irrigation is a natural spring which pours from the nearby mountains. Water comes out of the mountain at a temperature of 87 degrees. It supplies abundant water through the winter months but dwindles in the heat of summer."

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100 degrees considered a pleasant day at Death Valley golf course

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dormant.

Maskell has left Furnace Creek and is now working at Shadow Creek Golf Course in Las Vegas, the multimillion-dollar private course of casino tycoon Steve Wynn. In one step Maskell has gone from one of the most outdated courses to one of the ultimate state of the art. Continuing at Furnace Creek is Bill Hindman, a jack-of-all-trades who now has the duties of superintendent at Furnace Creek. With a force that includes one tractor, two mowing machines, three antiquated E-GO carts, and a crew of four men, he works to make the course more playable.

Roundup nets 1,157 geese

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“We have a lot of little lakes but it’s basically dry. We only get about nine inches of precipitation a year,” Kingman said of the Denver area. “Oklahoma has a lot of big lakes that aren’t very populated by year-round geese. They want to build up their lakes for hunting purposes, and these geese basically don’t leave during the winter.”

In the three days of roundup Kingman and colleagues found only six tagged geese — ones that had been taken to Oklahoma previously and had flown back to Colorado. Dow biologist Kathi Green said: “Over the years, the goose roundup has helped stabilize the summer population and it helps Kansas and Oklahoma with their goose restoration projects. This is a really good cooperative venture that benefits everybody and helps keep goose problems at a reasonable level.”

Kingham said the roundup program has been done annually for the last 15 years and he has been involved with the last six years. It’s something that has to be done. Superintendents have tried many ways to keep the messy geese off their courses. Starter guns work, but only for a couple of days, Kingman said.

The golf boom is obvious even here in Death Valley. The winter months are the strong business time for the course, but golfers now come in the heat of summer just for the experience of playing in the hottest spot in the world. The owners of the course are beginning a major clubhouse renovation, and looking at the possibility of installing a new irrigation system.

“I’m just learning as I go. I’ve been getting help from people in the turfgrass industry,” Hindman said. “In the last few months I have been getting soil samples done in Las Vegas, had high-pressure aeration done to the greens, and been playing with the mowing heights on the greens and fairways.”

Although he has only been working on the course for nine months, Hindman has learned what superintendents the world over know: Everyone is an expert when it comes to turf.

“I have explained to the golfers that here in Death Valley things are a little bit different than in other places. The players have a choice. They can either play on grass, or they can play on dirt, depending on how short I cut the greens. I have to do what makes the grass happy, not what makes the golfers happy sometimes.”

So during the summer months, if you think Mother Nature is dealing you a bad hand, just remember the crew at Furnace Creek.