Saluting solutions

Gainey Ranch’s effluent plant gets an ‘A’...

By Lyn Tilton

When Gainey Ranch of Scottsdale, one of 93 golf courses in the Phoenix, Ariz., area, sought permission to build its 27-hole complex in the mid-1980s, the city fathers responded, "Sure, but if you want water you’ll have to build an efficient treatment plant." So they did, then donated it to the city. "The plant cost $4 million," said George Corthouts, superintendent of the semi-private course. "Scottsdale owns and operates the plant, and delivers the water we need at 46 percent of the cost of potable water rates in this area. That currently translates to 62 cents per thousand gallons, compared with $1.38 for other users. The treated water flows at 15,000 gallons per minute over a massive waterfall on the 9th hole of the Lakes nine, then meanders through the rest of the lakes. At the lowest point on the complex, the water is drawn out for irrigation, or recycled through the waterfall. In this desert state, a waterfall is an added attraction for visitors, and helps Gainey Ranch achieve 320 rounds of golf daily in the winter months and an average of 100 golfers in the summer. "Frankly," said Corthouts, a Connecticut native used to rain, "in this area if you don’t have water you don’t have a golf course." When you use 2 million gallons per day, water costs naturally add to the cost of play, which at this semi-private course comes in three rates: $55, $58.50 and $100, plus taxes. "We are a true semi-private course, with one-third of our tee times reserved for guests at the Hyatt," Corthouts said. "There are a lot of golf courses in the area, but in the winter we’re all booked." Even with 93 courses to choose from, a sea-day reservation is not unusual during the winter months. Summer play is less intense, but it still makes water scheduling a challenge.

Gainey Ranch uses 100 percent of the water treated by the plant, which is situated next door to the maintenance complex. "In the winter it could support four or five courses, but during the four months of summer we need all of the water," Corthouts said. He noted that the local water... Continued on page 22

...while Ocean Reef Club taps into the ocean for its H₂O

By Kit Bradshaw

Superintendents throughout the country are using effluent from wastewater treatment plants to irrigate their courses. But Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Fla., which is surrounded by the sea, uses another method to capture this needed irrigation water. The club provides its irrigation water through its own desalination plant. The reverse osmosis plant, which takes brackish water and converts it to irrigation-quality water, has been operating for more than two decades. This desalination system provides the 36-hole golf course with 701,000 gallons of non-potable irrigation water a day. Potable water is provided by the Florida Keys aqueduct which brings treated water from the Biscayne Aquifer. The reason for the desalination is simple economics. Potable water from the aqueduct costs... Continued on page 23

Kozelnicky garners coveted Georgia honors

By Vern Putney

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Never, in his wildest dreams, did George M. Kozelnicky think he would be sharing golf’s center stage with the “King of Golf,” nor that he would be congratulated on his achievements by the legendary Arnold Palmer.

Twenty-four hours after being inducted in the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame for service to the game, it hit home. The impact was staggering. "It’s the biggest thing that ever happened to me," said the retired instructor of agronomy and plant pathology at the University of Georgia.

"That this honor occurred in front of 800 of the most renowned names in golf and among my friends," said Kozelnicky, "is overwhelming." A self-described "avid hacker"

By Dr. John F. Banieki of WVU Extension Service, President Charles A. Murray of Edgewood Country Club succeeds Past President John C. Cummings of Berry Hills Country Club. Vice president is Arthur R. Castro of Kanawha Country Parks, while Patrick E. Lewis of Scarlet Oaks Country Club is secretary-treasurer. Serving on the board of directors are Howard H. Lott of Bridgeport Country Club; Carl Buttrey of St. Marys Golf Club; Gary Routh of Riverside Golf Club; David A. Tennant of Lakesview Resort (North Course); Dr. John F. Banieki of WVU Extension Service; and Richard A. Patnck of Tri-Star Soils, Inc.

The officers and directors will guide the association in 1992 through its regular, monthly educational meetings, annual scholarship and research fund-raiser golf tournament in June, and annual turf conference and show in November.

40 YEARS IN FLORIDA

The Florida Turfgrass Association will celebrate its 40th year at its annual conference and trade show, Sept. 20-23 at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville. This year’s conference will feature an educational program led by national experts in turf and related fields.

The event draws more than 2,000 visitors. More information is available from the Florida Turfgrass Association and Research Foundation at 800-823-6712.

RESEARCH SUPPORTED

The New Hampshire GCSA said it will continue its support for one more year of two research studies — Stan Swier’s study of using nematodes to control cutworms, and Dr. John Roberts’ research on winter kill. The chapter donated more than $11,000 for research in 1991.