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, $86 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 six-day reservation is not unusual during the winter months. Summer play is less intense, but it still makes watering schedules 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 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 $3.60 per thousand gallons, compared with $1.38 for other users.

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

By Kit Brashaw

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 700,000 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.

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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"

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Palmer Maples reaps laurels for much-honored golf family

Appreciation Award points to decades of contributions

Palmer Maples Jr. of Summit Chase Country Club in Snellville, Ga., former president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, was presented an Award of Appreciation at a Georgia Golf Hall of Fame banquet in January.

Independent course runoff studies sought

Golf Course News is calling for leads on turf runoff research that has been done or is planned at golf courses.

In order to add substance and bulk to the body of scientific knowledge, we are asking superintendents and others to let us know about any research they know about. Please contact Stuart Cohen at Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., 11141 Georgia Ave., Suite 208, Wheaton, Md. 20902.

Cohen will follow up any lead and compile the results to be summarized in a report for the industry.

Cohen said he has discovered instances of isolated, limited studies of golf course runoff or leaching. Usually, those studies are never publicly released, he said.

Kozelnicky

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The award was presented to Maples largely for his performance over several decades in which he has been a role model for aspiring superintendents. He has helped many young superintendents find the way to the summit of their profession. One of them, Atlanta Athletic Club superintendent Ken Mangum, presented the Award of Appreciation in behalf of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association.

A member of a famous golf industry family, Maples was GCSAA president in 1975, a board member for six years, Georgia GCSA Superintendent of the Year in 1971, and served on the U.S. Golf Association Green Section Committee for 15 years.

One of the country's first 10 certified golf course superintendents, Maples was superintendent at Charlotte (N.C.) Country Club for 11 years, then moved to the Standard Club in Georgia in 1970. In 1977 he went to work as education director for the GCSAA, leaving in 1981 after developing manuals and slide sets for education programs.

Palmer says, "As a writer and speaker, I've tried to share my experience as a golf course superintendent for 30 years and encourage other superintendents to provide the best playing conditions they can.

We all receive from the men and women who went before us, and we need to give back all we can to insure the betterment of golf." Palmer encouraged young people coming into the business to seek all sources of information, try them out, and then tell others of the success or failure, because "there are times when knowing what not to do is as good as knowing what to do.

"No one ever said golf was fair, and no one says being a superintendent is an easy job. But it is rewarding. Seeing the beauty of God's nature and being able to work to enhance that beauty is a blessing in itself."

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