Ohio firm introduces pond-clean-up technology

BY HAL PHILLIPS

A technique pioneered at a Maine company appears to have revolutionized a seven-acre pond system that had been choked by years of pesticide build-up.

The innovative technique, called bioremediation, was applied by an Ohio firm specializing in acid mine drainage — the treatment of mine effluent laden with heavy metals. The Columbus-based Lambda Systems, Inc. had never before worked on a golf course project — that is, until Portland Country Club officials secured its service in 1989.

The ponds at Portland CC had been taken over by excessive cattail growth, to the exclusion of most other species. Wildlife that inhabited the pond’s ecosystem had also been forced off. In December 1989, according to Lambda’s John Davison, soil and water samples indicated toxic levels of lead, mercury and arsenate, as well as high levels of other heavy metals and sulfates.

In a balanced micro-ecosystem, you have producers (algae, for example), consumers (which eat producers) and decomposers (fungus and bacteria that break down dead consumers and producers).

“This is the most efficient recycling system in the world,” Davison explained. “It’s a circle, and if one link in the circle breaks down, the circle dies. This is what happened in Portland. The ecosystem was out of balance.”

Portland CC officials had a few choices: They could remove the pond bed (at great cost), fill it, or incinerate it under special conditions.

Instead, club elders opted for bioremediation: the introduction of microorganisms and bacteria which are encouraged to multiply, consume the toxic material, then disposed of it through the digestive process. Only organisms indigenous to the area are applied. Lambda calls this the BIO-CARB process.

### Gator Pumping Systems bought by SyncrFlo

**NORCROSS, Ga. — In a move that places it among the largest pre-packaged pumping system suppliers to the irrigation market, SyncrFlo has announced the purchase of Gator Pumping Modules (GPM).**

The purchase includes rights to the GPM models ideally suited for smaller landscape applications.

“GPM purchase complements existing large and small designs,” according to David Hanson, SyncrFlo president. “We can now support virtually any market requirement for both new and upgrade irrigation systems.”

SyncrFlo also gained significant distribution for all SyncrFlo irrigation pumping system products in south Georgia and Florida by signing an exclusive distribution agreement with Florida Irrigation Supply, one of the largest single suppliers of systems to the Florida golf industry.

For more information, contact David Thraikill at 770-261-3071, or write SyncrFlo, 6790 Best Friend Road, Norcross, Ga. 30092.