Kolasa named new head of CMAA

By PETER BLAIS

The golf industry will find a knowledgeable ally in new Club Managers Association of America President Richard Kolasa.

“My experience with golf clubs is one of my main strengths. I’ve been involved with golf since 1963,” said the general manager of Tucson, Ariz.’s Skyline Country Club. Kolasa will be elevated from vice president to the CMAA’s highest office during late February’s annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

One of the more interesting situations he’s dealt with during that time involves the irrigation system at Skyline. While most Southwest U.S. courses have installed automated systems, Skyline still uses quick couplers.

“In the superintendent’s mind, it’s not a priority. If he came to me and asked for an automated system, I’d consider it. But he’s happy with the system he has. So he has two guys out there watering every night,” Kolasa said.

Kolasa has been at Skyline since 1978. Before that he held similar posts at Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., Evansville (Ind.) Country Club and South Bend (Ind.) Country Club.

He graduated from Michigan State University in 1966, joined the CMAA in 1968 and became a certified manager in 1986. He

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Cape Cod study reinforced

New data confirms positive findings at sandy-soiled site

By PETER BLAIS

YARMOUTH, Mass. — Groundwater tests at a relatively new Cape Cod golf course substantiate many of the findings of the original Cape Cod study.

Stuart Cohen, director and author of the original Cape Cod study, said: “What the findings show is the minimum impact golf courses can have on ground water when an integrated pest management program is used by an educated and experienced superintendent.”

The initial Cape Cod investigation focused on four older courses. The feeling was that if pesticide contamination would be a problem anywhere, it would be on courses built long before today’s strict environmental guidelines and in a place like Cape Cod, where sandy soil and a

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Course openings up in ’92: Experts see it as peak year

By HAL PHILLIPS

The National Golf Foundation has issued figures indicating 1992 was a record-setting year for golf course openings. Three-hundred and fifty-four is the tentative number — three more than the 1991 total, which had represented a 20-year high.

However, the 354 figure has generated little flag-waving in golf industry circles. Indeed, the general consensus among financial analysts, and the NGF itself, views 1992 as a peak year — after which a more reasonable, stable number of openings is expected.

“There’s been a big, much-publicized wave of activity, but the pipeline is a long one,” said Don Rhodes, a vice president at Textron Financial Corp. “We’re seeing the results of projects started in 1988-89. The

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Oregon Fine Fescue.

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SPOKANE, Wash. — The sixth annual Inland Northwest Turf and Landscape Trade Show will be held here Feb. 17, at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds.

Aimed at turf industry professionals and landscapers, the show will feature a wide variety of turfgrass equipment and supplies. Admission is free and show hours will run from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the 17th.

This show is sponsored by the Inland Empire Golf Course Superintendents Association (IEGCSA). According to show organizers, booth space is still available and can be reserved for as little as $250.

For more information, contact Julie Boyce at the IEGCSA, 1708 North Lee St., Spokane, Wash., 99207, or call 509-534-4161.

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University in New Brunswick, N.J., the IR-4 Project is a federally funded program that performs testing on chemicals used exclusively on minor crops — situations where manufacturers can't justify their own testing because of expensive regulatory mandates passed down by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“We pay for the testing, well, the government pays for the testing with funds provided by the USDA,” said Guest. “We are available when industry can't pay for the test required by EPA because it is not economically feasible.

“We usually do residue studies — for food crops — as well as performance and crop safety studies. Tests such as toxicology and environmental fate studies are generally beyond the scope of our project, although we often work with others to get these tests done.

We closely coordinate our program with both the EPA and agrichemicals industry. Most of our research is carried out by state and federal scientists with help from private industry."

When it comes to the chemical industry, the mother of all mandates is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Amendments to FIFRA in 1988 dictate that minor chemicals registered with EPA before 1984 must be reregistered by 1997.

Dyrene, a long-used fungicide manufactured by Miles, is an example of a chemical that won’t be reregistered because testing would cost in the neighborhood of 86 million (Golf Course News, Nov. 1993). Dyrene’s market is very specific. Because the cost of reregistration is so exorbitant, Miles officials said they have no choice but to discontinue the product.

With 1997 looming in the distance, more and more effective, small-market fungicides face the same ignominious fate.

The folks at IR4 have already seen this troubling trend in the agricultural market, which comprises most of its “business.” Artichokes and kohlrabi are such minor crops with such specialized pesticide needs, few producers can justify the cost of federal registration.

Since 1970, the IR-4 Program has developed data in support of more than 1,100 food uses and more than 3,000 ornamental use registrations.

But these guys are scientists, not PR flacks.

“We have established an IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee,” said Guest, “in order to be tuned into the needs of our constituents — farmers, nurserymen and turf specialists. We want these people to know what we do and how we can help them get registrations for their specialty crops.”

IR-4 is a self-described “broad-based, grass roots” organization, whereby pesticide-research proposals are directed to an IR-4 network of state and federal liaison representatives and coordinators. Each request for research assistance is reviewed internally and with personnel of EPA, or the appropriate federal agency.

Projects are then prioritized by regional and national review committees prior to being accepted as candidate research projects. The process can be lengthy, said Guest, but the 1997 deadline would work in favor of the chemical manufacturer.

“The process is lengthy,” said Guest, “but with a beefed up program we will meet the reregistration deadline.”

For more information, contact Dr. Guest at 908-932-9575.

KOSTKA JOINS AQUATROLS

Aquatrols has named Dr. Stanley J. Kostka director of research. Kostka earned his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Massachusetts. He also has 32 publications to his credit in national and international journals. Prior to joining Aquatrols, Kostka was research manager with a major agriculture bio-technology company.

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