New life for Arizona projects

BY MARK LESLIE

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Arizona golf course construction industry has a fresh pulse.

One of the country's largest water development systems is on-line and golf course projects — on hold for years because of lack of water — are lining up to buy into the new supply. As many as 14 new courses could be built now that non-potable water has started flowing from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal north along Pima Road to the northern reaches of Scottsdale. That is prime golf course territory featuring the likes of Desert Mountain Properties, The Boulders, Troon North, Desert Highlands and the Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale.

The $14 million Reclaimed Water Distribution System (RWDS) is the newest phase of the master plan, begun in the 1960s, to irrigate the West. Next up will be the 1995 startup of an effluent plant that will treat water from the major development area in north Scottsdale. That water will be reinserted into the pipeline.

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Karsten Lab to address desert issues

BY MARK LESLIE

TUCSON, Ariz. — Golf courses in desert regions can expect to reap benefits from major research that will be conducted at the University of Arizona's new Desert Turfgrass Research Facility and Karsten Laboratory for Turf Science here.

"We have four or five different, specific problems we have in the desert that need to be addressed," said Dr. David Kopec, Extension specialist for turf in Arizona. "Major targets will be developing irrigation schedules and water-use programs, breeding new turfgrasses, dealing with efficient, and perfecting techniques for weed control and overseeding."

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One-stop shop comes to Asia

BY MAL PHILLIPS

GAPORE — After months of posturing on both the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and Connex Private Ltd. appear to have joined forces, thereby creating a single mega-show serving the entire Asia-Pacific region.

The event will be "two events under one roof," not a single show. Each show will retain its own staff, resources and, presumably, autonomy. These simultaneous events will be held March 24-27, at the International Merchandise Mart in Singapore.

However, further details on the two-show, one-roof arrangement — including proprietary issues — remained sketchy as Golf Course News went to press in

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Desert turf issues being tackled by new Univ. of Arizona lab

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Kopec and Dr. Charles Mancino will oversee the facility, which has benefited from donations of money and equipment from scores of companies and the Cactus & Flue Golf Course Superintendents Association, among others.

"This is a budding example of how the industry can support the universities and stay close to their programs. And the cost-benefit ratio is tremendous for everyone involved," said Kopec.

The number-one benefit will be the laboratory's work aimed at decreasing water application to sports turf by having better techniques in irrigation scheduling, he said. "Second, we need to develop new grass varieties that would use less water than Bermudagrass and that would be suitable as a grass cover. We're not looking to replace a 2-1/2 acre ballfield of highly trafficked Bermudagrass with another grass. We're looking to develop new grasses, perhaps domesticate some naturally occurring desert species into a turf setting where it would retain 95 to 100 percent grass cover and take five or six irrigations during the summertime at most."

Research on efficient water and secondary reclaimed water for turf will be "a strong part of the program because there's quite a populace being established in the Southwest and the research we do here is applicable to Tucson, Phoenix, Las Vegas and deserts of Southern California," Kopec said.

"There are 500-plus golf courses in this area and a lot of their turfs need this special management."

Weed control is a problem at desert courses in the Southwest, he said, because Bermudagrass is grown in the summertime and courses overseeded with ryegrasses and other cool-season grasses from October to May.

Mancino is looking in to curly mesquitegrass, a low-maintenance grass native in Arizona at 2,800 feet and above.

"For lower elevations, we're looking at buffalograss, salt grass, paspalums and potential domestication of some other range species. Some would be applicable to golf courses," Kopec said.

The eight-acre facility includes 6-1/2 acres of turf. The laboratory structure contains a wet laboratory, office space, equipment storage and garage area.

Crucial to research efforts are the world's two largest lysimeters — 12-foot-deep, seven-foot-inner-diameter tanks containing 50 tons of soil on scales sensitive enough to measure 250 grams (the weight of the morning dew) in weight change.

Kopec and Mancino are looking forward to initiation of a new funding mechanism being worked out by the Arizona Golf Association and turfgrass industry along with Dr. Merle Jensen, UA's associate dean for research.

Called the Turfgrass Futures Investment (TFI) program, it would infuse revenue from golf played in the state into research, education and extension programs at the university.

This will provide long-term support for graduate students, technical research, research operations, and educational activities. TFI has been discussed for two years, but Kopec reported "a lot of activity" in the last three months.

"The industry has been fabulous with donating equipment. To complete the army, I just need some soldiers," Kopec said. "The game of golf is an important part of the American economy and just 10 cents per round can kick back a 10,000-times-over return on a project."

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Artist, Audubon to produce course paintings

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Adriano Manocchia, an internationally acclaimed artist of sporting scenes and wildlife, has been selected by the Audubon Society of New York State to create a series of prints to benefit the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP). Manocchia, in association with Somerset House Publishing, will divide a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the prints of famous golf courses to further the work of the ACSP.

Upon the release of Adriano Manocchia's print, "TPC at Sawgrass, The 16th and 17th Holes," golfer Ben Crenshaw said: "I'm pleased that the ACSP is taking such an active role in showing how golf courses can enhance and protect wildlife habitat. Golf courses over the years have provided valuable open spaces, greenbelts, and natural sanctuaries for wildlife. I am hopeful that the efforts of the ACSP will increase public awareness about the positive effects a golf course can offer to the environment."


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