Golf industry needs a lobbyist of its own

The golf industry has a simple but nevertheless enormous problem in our nation’s capitol. Image and perception are everything in Washington, and golf is sorely lacking on both counts: visibility and influence. This is why the Clinton Administration would follow through with its commitment to reduce pesticide use, you can stop waiting. The legislation was introduced in May and will be brought to the U.S. Senate shortly. However, the contention that golf courses apply seven times more pesticides than do farmers and homeowners is yet another example of political hyperbole.

The farming vs. golf debate (and just who applies more pounds of chemical per treated acre) has raged for some time, and citing the now infamous 1991 study from the N.Y. Attorney General’s office has become commonplace. Unfortunately for the environmental lobby, it’s the only study in recent history that supports its argument. Further, the study’s lead researcher has long disputed the AG’s final “edit,” which enabled the study’s conclusion to match its initial intent — namely, to paint golf courses as environmentally voracious.

Comparing to farmers, golf courses do not apply as much pesticide per treated acre — a fact the British environmental movement has accepted for decades. In addition, the golf course covers 150 acres, less than half the acreage is actually treated, whereas farmers spread pesticides wall to wall. (Burnt, I think, on golf)

Continued on next page

It's time for golfers to pay their fair share

Over the years, the entire golf industry has borne the cost of turfgrass research. The United States Golf Association, private industry, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, state and regional chapters have all gone to great lengths to raise money, then given it away to scientists investigating everything from pesticles to low-input turfgrasses.

Now it’s time for the end-user — the golfer — to pitch in. Golfers are, after all, the beneficiaries of the lifetime work of hard-working superintendents and their crews devote to creating perfect playing conditions for us. The Arizona green industry took a severe blow this spring when two legislators killed legislation that would have assessed 10 cents per round of golf, with the funds bankrolling research. The entire golf industry reeled, stunned by that debacle. Similar legislation is in effect in various states supporting research in citrus, agriculture and other industries. Superintendents, however, are the ones who have to pay with the funds bankrolling research. The entire golf industry has borne the cost of turfgrass research. The United States Golf Association (USGA) and private industry need to pull people and organizations together.

For a while there, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) seemed determined to go it alone. But the superintendents have changed their ways, as exhibited by their recent cooperation with the United States Golf Association (USGA) and

Continued on next page

Letters

BORDER COLLIES NEEDN’T BE PUREBRED

To the editor:

In response to your “On the Green” article in the March edition of Golf Course News, I have owned a border collie since 1983. His mother was a purebred border collie, naturally, I had to put him to sleep, because of leukemia, which his mother had also died from. Since his death I have been unable to find another border collie, named Divis. Border collies were raised to herd sheep, and for the most part they do it instinctively. We located the first owner, and she also wanted the dogs to chase geese as a natural instinct.

Divis and her brother chased geese for a few months after I acquired them. Samson cost me nothing and Divis is my most obedient dog.

With Samson, the mention of geese would excite him, and he would start looking everywhere for them. If the geese found their way into a pond, he would follow and chase them, until they would give up and fly away. When Samson died, I knew I would have to get another border collie, so I went on a search for one. I found a place where they had a border collie with what I thought had some lusky in him. I was not sure he would take to herding geese as well as Samson had. The first few months he seemed to not even notice the geese, but she sure did notice him. As soon as I saw him, they flew away. After about two months, Divis started chasing alligators. By the third month he understood the world geese, and would start looking for them, until he found them. I had another dog, who loves to chase geese.

I guess, what I am trying to tell you is that border collies do not have to chase geese, and you do not have to spend $2,000 for a perfect dog to get rid of geese. I talk to Richard Marchas, owner of the border collie, Taci, you wrote of in your article, and his dog was trained exceptionally well. But border collies do tend to obey their masters instinctively, and neither of my dogs has ever gotten into a situation where the geese were going to drown them. His dogs are also trained not to bark, and I have yet to figure out how to keep mine from barking. If you do not have $2,000 to buy a dog to rid the golf course of geese, I would still recommend a border collie, just one you will have to train yourself.

Thomas F. Dale, GCSAA
Radnor Valley Country Club
Villanova, Pa.

CAPTURING THE FLAVOR OF THE WADSWORTH WAY

To the editor:

I would really like to thank you for writing such a wonderful article about Wadsworth, its legacy and the people who have had the opportunity to be associated with this outstanding firm. Not only was your article accurate, but was extremely well written and I think that it encompassed the flavor of the Wadsworth Way.

I am particularly grateful that Mr. Wadsworth has been able to demonstrate that when you place the clients' needs above yours and also above all else, you will succeed.

Your article portrays this very nicely. All in all, it was a wonderful article.

Craig Schreiner
ASGA, ASLA
Kansas City, Mo.
CALENDAR

June
8 — Lofts Field Day in Wilmington, Ohio. Contact David Goodwin at 800-329-1127.
10 — Lofts Field Day in Delray Beach, Md. Contact John Patton at 800-732-3322.

July
4-8 — World Scientific Congress of Golf in the UK at 0334-755600.
31-Aug. 2 — Georgia GCSA Summer Conference at Callaway Gardens Resort. Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.

August
16 — Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day in Madison. Contact Dr. Frank Rossi at 608-242-1490.

September

October
29-Nov. 2 — Georgia GCSA Annual Meeting in Savannah. Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.

November
11-12 — Golf Course Expo in Orlando, Fla. Contact 703-573-3551.
18-20 — National Golf Foundation Golf Expo in Orlando, Fla.

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For more information contact
Editor Peter Blais at 207-846-0600

Leslie commentary

Continued from page 10

times have less impact on our society than the stories behind the less-weighty headlines. Along with this, any coverage of the Black Pages may lurk around the corner in your future.

First, remember, it was not long ago that the Shoal Creek mud was slung. The private country club in Birmingham, Ala., had no African-American members. African-Americans, whites — the whole world, for that matter — damned the club from here to Sunday for its discrimination.

Today, those same African-Americans are stepping into the old shoes of Those Dreaded Discriminators. The Black Pages is their answer to the Yellow Pages of your friendly telephone company. While the Yellow Pages list all businesses, the Black Pages list only those owned by African-Americans.

Is this discrimination against white, yellow and red people? What if you are a (ugh) "mixed breed"?

Would Dr. Martin Luther King have joined Shoal Creek? I don’t know. But I feel he would be very upset by the Black Pages. He wanted all people to transcend physical superficialities. This sort of thing only puts up more walls of division.

And if we don’t need it in golf, we certainly don’t need it in society in general. Indeed, the American Declaration of Independence...

Continued on next page

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to hole. We know the message sinks in because we see results: better
asset to our maintenance program."
Rick McCullum, Woodmere CC, NY.

Circle #164

Leslie commentary
Continued from previous page
pendsence and the Judeo-Christian religion
 calls us to be "one people.

Henry Louis Gates, chairman of black studies
at Harvard University, agrees. Do you?

When Dr. Noel Jackson spoke to Maine
superintendents on Pythium damage, he
said when Pythium hits, it leaves bengtgrass
but kills poa annua. "How can we get it?"
came the hue and cry.

Of course, they didn't want to know; but,
if you water abundantly you create condi-
tions for Pythium, whose 35 species are
some of the fastest-growing fungi in turf.

San Francisco Golf Club's Maynard Gar-
sion, a senior citizen, told American Soci-
y of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA)
members: "We have few opportunities for exercise. Please take the lead to get rid of
golf buggies. They are the bane of the
existence of all golfers."

From Dr. James Watson, retired Toro
executive, speaking to the ASGCA: "By the
year 2050 the greatest export from the U.S.
to Mexico will be water—not oil, minerals,
or anything else."

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Circle #166

New American Society of Golf Course
Architects President Don Knott told
members: "Stanley Thomson was absolutely
correct when he commented that designing
golf courses without having studied the links
of the British Isles is akin to a divinity student
who has never studied the Bible."