In an effort to lead, Golf Digest muddles the message

For months now, the staff here has tried to pin down and report details on an environmental summit first proposed by the Pebble Beach Co. and Denver-based Aquatec, Inc. The idea for such a meeting was first surfaced in January of this year. The central goal appears to be to get a date.

In an effort to lead, Golf Digest wanted to do the announcing. The magazine is scheduled to co-sponsor and the magazine edition, Executive Editor Roger Schiffman weighs in on why the conference is necessary, offering several examples of alleged on-course agronomic problems and developmental abuse. For instance, he notes that three courses in the Tampa, Fla. area consume 50,000 gallons of water per day, enough to "meet the daily water needs of five thousand Tampa residents." I doubt very much that Tampa residents would want 25 percent of those 560,000 gallons because they’re re-circulated. Water in Florida is therefore returned to the water table and reused. Commercial users in Florida use 30 billion (yes, with a "B") gallons of water per day, only a small portion of which is messaged and developmental abuse. For instance, he notes that three courses in the Tampa, Fla. area consume 50,000 gallons of water per day, enough to "meet the daily water needs of five thousand Tampa residents." I doubt very much that Tampa residents would want 25 percent of those 560,000 gallons because they’re re-circulated. Water in Florida is therefore returned to the water table and reused. Commercial users in Florida use 30 billion (yes, with a "B") gallons of water per day, only a small portion of which is

In the words of Bob Youn, executive director of the Florida Turfgrass Association, water use on golf courses in Florida is a "joke on the backside." Schiffman also quotes a Cornell University study that says, "A newly established site with limited turf cover appears to have the greatest potential for pesticide leaching." Of course, dirt does provide an ideal atmosphere for leaching, whereas turfgrass is one of nature’s optimum filters. Funny that we should be worrying about pesticide use in situations when dirt provides an ideal atmosphere for leaching. In his attempt to be even-handed, Schiffman goes on

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Does the golf course industry need an attitude adjustment?

Yes, you’ve heard about Attitude Adjustment. It’s a go through an Attitude Adjustment daily when I look back and regret for how I’ve messed up. But I’ve got a couple more Adjustments to enter into The Equation of The American Experience: Attitude, Latitude, Platitude and Platitude.

• It’s time for an Attitude Adjustment: You know how the Army makes mechanical dummies into mechanics and turns people who want to be firefighters into security personnel? Same as what’s happened in politics. In fact, maybe it has the right idea.  You know how the Army makes mechanical dummies into mechanics and turns people who want to be firefighters into security personnel? Same as what’s happened in politics. In fact, maybe it has the right idea.

Baseball’s Ozzie Guillen is a slump he puts eyes drop on the bat. Some people all of the time — and all people some of the time — just can’t see where there problems really lie. They just needAttitude Adjustment.

• Then there’s the Latitude Adjustment. That is, adjusting how much latitude you give people when their statements are way out and whacky. If it’s no big deal, or if nobody is listening to them anyway, or if knowing the truth will set them free, you can adjust your latitude and let it pass. Sometimes, though, you must narrow the latitude. This is the case in point. Those dear folks who stand up at public meetings and spout environmental platitudes that have no basis in truth. The golf industry should give them, and their platitudes, less latitude.

• For that matter, how about a Platitude Adjustment? A platitude is "a flat, dull, or trite remark, especially one uttered as if it were fresh and profound," says the American College Dictionary. Some live on platitudes, others before you publish them, because some of them are fresh and profound," says the American College Dictionary. Some live on platitudes, others just can’t see where their problems really lie. They just needAttitude Adjustment.

Combine these four — Attitude, Latitude, Platitude and Platitude, and you get true Attitude Adjustment. Does the golf industry as a whole need an Attitude Adjustment? Probably. Most of us do individually, as well as corporately. But there’s the Good News and the bad news. You can do both. The tricky part is the Good News. The good news is the results U.S. Golf Association Green Section supported environmental research (see story page 10). For that matter, the bad news is the results are fresh and profound, says the American College Dictionary. Some live on platitudes, others just can’t see where their problems really lie. They just needAttitude Adjustment.

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Three years of extensive investigation have yielded a truckload of dynamite for the golf industry to use in an assault against environmental scareism. This information will be given to “meet the daily water needs of five thousand Tampa residents." I doubt very much that Tampa residents would want 25 percent of those 560,000 gallons because they’re re-circulated. Water in Florida is therefore returned to the water table and reused. Commercial users in Florida use 30 billion (yes, with a "B") gallons of water per day, only a small portion of which is

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Letters

CONNOLLY: THERE’S MORE TO FIGHTING ALGAE THAN AERATION ALONE

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on the product feature on aquatic plants management in the May 94 issue of Golf Course News. I have a background in natural resource management and have written several articles on water quality. I recently saw an advertisement for aerifiers being used as a solution to poor water quality.刈, I cringe. Oxygen levels in bodies of water are a critical part of the ecosystem and cannot be addressed as a single component of water quality.

Aerators, according to the EPA test results, improve water quality in less than 50 percent of the applications!

In an article published, Mr. Steve Brown, President of Air Lake Aeration Inc., says, "We’re seeing more and more algae growth on tees and greens. It’s usually caused by bad irrigation water coming out of the ponds." This is a questionable statement.

The major reason for algae forming on greens is because the turfgrass is under some sort of stress, resulting in turfgrass thinning allowing algae to bloom. Algae is a natural component of most soils. However, algae is not a competitor with turfgrass under normal conditions. There is no substantiation for the statement that algae is "pumped onto greens or tees causing algae blooms." I’m not sure if this article was an advertisement or a technical write-up. However, it is important to review some of the claims by advertisers before you publish them, because some of them are half-truths. I hope you don’t consider my comments harsh or criticizing. The subjects of water quality management is very complex, and I feel that aerator companies are taking advantage of golf course superintendents who are not informed in this area. Many of the statements and articles consider aerifiers as a water quality management tool. Especially when the companies are not the experts in the aquatic management business or the more specialized industry of domestic water quality management (limnology).

Jan Connolly Sr. Technical Agronomist JacklinGolf Post Falls, Idaho

THANKS FROM WSFP-TV

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for the kind words you said last spring about the WSFP-TV production, "Building a Golf Course." [GCM March '93]. So far the series has been broadcast in southwest Florida on Southwest Florida Public Television. Over the coming year, we are looking to distribute the series either via cable television or through public broadcasting.

The nine holes have turned into Hurricane no. 3, no. 4, no. 5, no. 6, and no. 7; Seminole no. 5 and no. 6; and Panther no. 3 and no. 4. The new holes maintain the high quality of the original 27 holes offering golfers many interesting challenges.

Once again, thank you for your kind article in Golf Course News.

Kirk Lehtoman, Station Manager WSFP-TV Bonita Springs, Florida

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quote Dr. James Beard, who has long main-
tained that turf actually enhances the envi-
ronment. Yet, in his penultimate paragraph, the
author urges Americans to adopt the
Scottish model, which is less lush but re-
quires few pesticide treatments and water.
Golf Digest has its heart in the right place,
but positions taken by the magazine
"Top Whatever" list
would make
Scottish model, which is less lush but re-
over the past 10 years make some of this
track" orthelike. I wonder how many courses
must be individually for the tax breaks.
return, the club commits itself to keep-
ing the land undeveloped and agrees
to reimburse the town for all tax breaks if the
parcel is ever developed. The reimburse-
ment provision upsets the ante for a developer
with every year of reduced taxes, notes
Frederick D. Herberich, general counsel for
the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.
Back in April, Golf Course News pub-
guest column from David
MacDonald of Maine Coast Heritage Trust.
MacDonald urged course owners to ex-
ploration opportunities and, perhaps,
lower their taxes in the process. In states
with regressive tax codes, property is taxed at
its "highest and best" potential use —
but owners can keep their taxes down and
maintain open space by negotiating long-
term easements with their communities.
Drafted by the Massachusetts Golf As-
sociation (MGA), Chapter 61B was passed
into law in 1978 following a public referen-
dum. Some have objected to the tax breaks,
especially those given to private country clubs.
But Tim Storrow — director of land
protection of the Massachusetts Audubon
Society — calls the law an "important tool for
helping keep open land in the state.
Walter Lankau is owner of Stone (Mass.)
Acres Country Club, site of next year's U.S.
Golf Association Public Links Champions-
ship. He's also president of the New En-
land Golf Course Owners Association,
and he puts it best. "If I had to pay taxes at
the regular rate," said Lankau, "this course
would be houses.
This law would provide a win-win situa-
tion for many golf course owners in states
with regressive tax codes. Questions? Con-
tact MGA Executive Director Richard
Haskell at 617-891-4500.

We have a winner!
National Mower, which has been turn-
ing out product since 1919, recently spon-
sored a contest to determine the oldest
National Mower still in operation. Their
winner was Steve Devine, superintendent
at Tagalong Golf Course in Brookwood,
Wis. Devine is still using a 30 model manu-
factured in 1961.
Now that's real longevity...

Japanese water study
Continued from page 3
samples for 30 pesticides in ponds,
drains, rivers, municipal waters and
elsewhere in and around three golf courses. Some 4,485 detections of
pesticides were recorded, with seven
samples containing pesticide levels
over HAL.
In 1991, 14 samples exceeded HAL
out of 3,709 detections, which came
from 89,713 samples. In 1990, 10 ex-
ceeded HAL out of 2,342 detections,
which were out of 46,016 samples
analyzed.
"That's an enormous, incredible
amount of analysis," Cohen said.
"Clearly, this is something the Japa-
nese government felt important
even to spend millions of dollars
on.
"These results can only be re-
viewed as favorable." Cohen said that, in his experience,
"the number of detections seems
right... The number of hits
over HAL seems a little low.

Forget composting: Clippings make Golf Paper
Continued from page 4
papermaking and a little magic," said
Gustafson. "I'm convinced a lot of people thought we were crazy during develop-
ment, but the finished product speaks for
itself.
Indeed, the finished product comes about
much testing by Four Corners' inhouse chemists, and with cooperation from The
Boulders' superintendent emeritus Carl
Snyder and Resort Management of Arizona.
Since grasses ferment, compost and dry
out too much, scientists had to develop a
system to collect the grass and keep it
green until it was run on the papermaking machine. The clippings must be dried,
blended, and suspended in the pulp solution.
Tests last fall found that ryegrass and
Bermudagrass were not as consistent as
browntop. Their broad-leaves made sus-
pension in the pulp difficult.
Arrangements were then made to col-
lect clippings from the area's Resort Man-
agement of America golf courses on days
when the greens are free from chemical
applications.
The 144 greens at the four courses pro-
vide enough grass for a month of paper-
making at current demand, Richardson
said.
Just how big is that demand?
"It's too early to tell how great the de-
mand will be. We've made tons and sold
tons, and we're making more. And we've
had a tremendous response from Asia and
Europe," Richardson said. "In Asia, so far we've been helping a golf course
industry who sell in stationery stores.
Once the golf industry finds out about it in Asia, it will go bonkers.
Renzetti: What every player should know
Continued from page 11
ball marks. Studies have shown that
taking 5 seconds to repair your ball mark will result in a healed area in 5-7 days less. Left
damaged and un repaired, how-
ever, this same area would take
over 5 weeks to heal. A little
preventative maintenance can go a
long way.
Spike marks can also effect how
"true" a ball rolls. Though the rules of
golf prohibit the repairing of spike marks that might "im-
prove the line of putt" prior to
putting, golfers are encouraged to
tap down spike marks after the
entire group has "holed out."
Another alternative, supported by U.S. Golf Association, studies is to
switch to the spikeless shoe.
With the advent of new cup
liners, the definition of cupping
edges are more easily maintained.
The golfer still must exercise
care, however, when removing
and then replacing the cup. Since
carelessly, the sharp edge of the
cup is diminished.
Golf courses today are in better
condition and play more consis-
tently than ever before. This
is balanced against increased labor
and costs and skyrocketing material
prices to maintain these standards.
More rounds, played by more
people, who in turn, have increas-
ingly high exceptions of golf
course conditions.
The diligent efforts by the golf
course superintendent and his
staff to provide these conditions
can be dramatically improved with
the cooperation of the member-
ship. By demonstrating etiquette,
obeying course rules, and thinking
of those players to follow, the
golfer make significant individual
contributions. And yet, it is a team
effort — with the end result being a
winning golf course that the
membership can be proud of.

Now the moister goes
even deeper - 24 inches.
Nothing else even comes close.
Even Steven Spielberg couldn't dream up a more
piercing scenario for knitting through turf...introducing
the Model 405, 250 VERTI-DRAIN®. No other machine
goes this deep and heaves the turf forward cracking
the sidewalls of the core hole making it easier for air
and water to penetrate. So if you have to go deep, look
to VERTI-DRAIN to get you there.

VERTI-DRAIN®
Works like a pitchfork, only better.

Emrex, Inc., Box 1349, Kingston, PA 18704 (717) 288-9360

COMMENTS