NEWS IN BRIEF

LIVERMORE, Calif. — Ground has been broken on a new public course and construction is expected to begin later this month at the 27-hole Poppy Ridge Golf Course, developed by the Northern Cal. Golf Association. The second project is the 18-hole, Greg Norman-designed Golf Course at Wente Brothers.

ST. LOUIS — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has registered Monsanto’s Manage herbicide for control of yellow and purple nutsedge in warm- and cool-season turfgrasses. Susan Recknagel, area manager for Monsanto’s Industrial, Turf and Ornamental Division, said she expects to have Manage available to turf professionals later this year.

BOCA RATON, Fla. — The Mark Mahannah Co., a golf course architectural and planning company here, will soon expand its portfolio to 18-hole golf course developed in conjunction with a residential community project called Potosi north of Bogota, Colombia.

ELKHORN, Neb. — In-dian Creek, a daily-fee golf course here, will soon expand from 18 to 27 holes. Architect Mark Rathert designed the new nine. Brett Gottsch owns and operates Indian Creek. Construction will begin this spring with the new holes to open in June 1996. A residential subdivision is also planned.

"The Dangers of Pesticides are Exaggerated by the Media"

"Golf Courses Use Too Much Water for Conditioning"

"Fertilizers and Other Chemicals Used on Golf Courses Pollute Lakes and Streams"

Statistics featured on this page should provide every Golf Course News reader food for thought. On the one hand, openings are up, but significant industry-wide image problems remain.

The above figures regarding 1994 openings, in addition to those on page 1, were provided by the Jupiter, Fla. based National Golf Foundation. Not included were the NGF’s statistics on courses under construction:

- a total of 769 projects in progress
- 484 new facilities
- 203 expansions
- 648 of the 769 total projects designated as public-access

How many of the 769 will open for play this year? A good rule of thumb stipulates that two-thirds of courses under construction will open during the current calendar year.

Do the math. Another solid year is on the horizon, as the nation’s stock of courses opens on pace to hit the 15,000-course plateau.

The three bar graphs pictured here are featured in the NGF’s “Attitudes and Perceptions Concerning Golf & the Environment” report, issued in conjunction with the ‘94 Summit in Scottsdale, Ariz. Fascinating reading. Clearly, the golf course industry has a long way to go in educating even the avid golfer.

Included in the “Attitudes and Perceptions” report (but not on this page) are reams of telling statistics. For example, did you know that 35 percent of National Wildlife Federation members and 23 percent of National Audubon Society members are golfers?

For a copy of this and other NGF reports, call 407-744-6006.

— Hal Phillips

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