**High-octane coffee klatch idea**

Save money and valuable man hours with big pot

By MARK LESLIE

F ALMOUTH, Maine — Kevin Ross is known for his inventive ness, forward thinking and progressiveness in agronomic matters. But ask him to name the best thing he did in 1994 and you'll get an odd response. "People will laugh at me," he said, "but the best thing I did was buy a 48-cup coffee percolator and a timer." Ross estimates the $22 coffee maker and $8 timer saved many man-hours and dollars in his budget at Falmouth Country Club.

"If you have coffee bounds and don't get a percolator you're behind the 8-ball," Ross said. And he was not kidding Joe D'Maggio.

Ross's assistant prepares the percola tor at the end of the day's work and sets the timer for 4 a.m. When the crew arrives for work at 6 a.m., the coffee and percolator have done their job and the coffee is ready. The routine saves man hours galore. In the old days, time was lost preparing the coffee in a small pot several times during the day and waiting for it to brew. "The routine was, get to work, make a pot and wait. Break-time, make a new pot and wait," Ross said. "Now the guys arrive for work, load up those big insulated mugs.

**Information superhighway catches up with golf**

Going on-line to stay on top, supers joining whole new world

By DAVID ROSE

The Third Wave. The Information Superhighway. The Infobahn. Whatever your favorite overblown metaphor, there is little doubt the ongo ing explosion in information technology is changing the way millions of people live and work. A growing number of golf course superintendents are taking advantage of this new technology, and they're finding that knowledge is power.

On-line services, which range from national fee-based systems to small, independent, often-free computer bulletin boards, provide users with a wide variety of features from sending electronic mail to downloading free software. In addition, a number of specialized on-line services tailored to the needs of golf course managers are now available, accessible to anyone with a personal computer and a modem.

One such service is the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) at Michigan State University, a fee-based service currently accessible via direct telephone dial-up. The heart of TIC is the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), a bibliographic information File. TGIF is continually updated with entries culled from more than 200 journals, magazines, and trade publications. "This is, if you will, the industry's library," said TIC Administrator Peter Cookingham.

Users can search TGIF using key words, then browse through the records that match the search criteria. "Our real bottom line," said Cookingham, "is to make all of those back issues of publications more useful" by providing an index with which people can pull out information as it is needed.

Another major function of on-line services is to provide a forum for discussion among users on topics of common interest. That's the philosophy behind TurfTalk, a fee-based bulletin board service for golf course superintendents based in Lawrence, Kan. Founded eight years ago by then-superintendent Dusane Patton, TurfByte boasts 300 subscribers from some 30 states.

"Around 80 percent of our subscribers..."
AGC's Holt wins Leo Feser Award

SAN FRANCISCO — Pat Holt, director of maintenance of American Golf Corp. for the Eastern United States, has been presented the 1995 Leo Feser Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Holt, a certified golf course superintendent, won the award for his article, "Team-building fosters success," which was published in the May 1994 issue of GCSAA's Golf Course Management magazine.

The award was presented at the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

When the tax man cometh Continued from page 15

it. They do not go through the trouble of claiming it as income for anyone. It is the club's basic decision whether it wants to claim the use of the vehicle as income.

Some courses have their superintendents sign a letter stating they will not use it for any personal purpose, and will also stipulate that they often will have to return to the course after normal business hours and on days off, which would alter the vehicle's mileage.

Turn time-burner into money-saver Continued from page 15

that keep coffee warm forever and drive off to work. No waiting around.

"Multiply the time saved by 15 to 20 people, times our seven-month season," he said. "Figure it out. It's a huge savings — and all for $30."

In the meantime, Ross' mechanic has cut lengths of 1-inch-diameter PVC pipe and riveted them to the crew's utility vehicles. He even cut a groove, length-wise, in the pipe to accommodate the handles of the mugs.

The grounds crew's entire coffee klatch has been turned upside down into a positive influence on Ross' operation. Coffee grounds are added to the club's compost pile. Indeed, they don't even have to pay for the coffee. Soda cans gleaned from around the course pay for the coffee — and more.

"We get $150 a month from cans," Ross said. "The guys gather them from around the course, and a fellow even comes here, bags them and pays us for them. We get enough money to pay for the coffee, plus crew picnics and outings."

Ross also said the 48-cup percolator has lowered the "frustration level" of finding the pot empty when a crew member drives by for a quick refill.

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