W

A little optimism

waving from the various industry sources. I mean, who could in more and more places in these modern days, pros recognize

*editor

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the number of courses that had opened for play
during 1993, as public-access development

That according to a University of Florida risk assessment,

permitting restrictions are becoming tougher and tougher every year. This 354 figure probably constitutes our high-water mark. In

to overseeing construction of a magnificent maintenance complex

before my call. "The maintenance complex is always an

very difficult to secure financing in the early 1990s, which should

Wiseman, a certified golf course superintendent,

corners of the market made my job remarkably easy, as they as the public (see story page 1).

Pointing to Turf Operations Manager Rick

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Hurdzan Design Group

Mary P. Mag, CGCS

Huntland National Golf Club

Mr. Ross, CGCS

Mr. Eric Gourley, Gang

The McLaughlin Group

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FROM THE EDITOR

New PGA product noted for its reserve & civility

"I can live for two months on a good compliment." — Mark Twain

Pros and superintendents. Superintendents and pros.

There were days and golf courses where the twain (get it?) never met — unless they were the same person. But in more and more places in these modern days, pros recognize the importance of the superintendent to the survival of their golf club.

Nowhere is this better exemplified than at PGA Golf Club at the Reserve in Port St. Lucie, Fla., where PGA Golf Properties has opened its first home course for club professionals as well as the public (see story page 1). Listen to this; isn’t this refreshing? "We are very proud of the dollars we expended on the maintenance complex," said Senior Director of Operations Marty Kavanaugh.

"The maintenance complex is always an afterthought. But we built the maintenance complex before we built the PGA golf professional’s golf shop."

Pointing to Turf Operations Manager Rick

Kavanaugh, Kavanaugh added: "We recognize that in most golf operations, golf professionals and superintendents don’t have computable goals. Golf pros are compensated on income and rounds played. Superintendents are compensated on quality of the golf course. Here, they are compensated on the PGA experience and the ability of the club to make money."

"So, the goals are very, very compatible. And, when the golf course is closed, you know it has to be closed..."

From joining the facility in the Audubon Signature Program to overseeing construction of a magnificent maintenance complex that is a model for environmental protection, Wise is much more a face for superintendents around the country. Kavanaugh and Head Golf Professional Bill Ciadafetti are for pros.

Congratulations are due them all. Pros and superintendents working in concert... What a concept!

If a person plays golf every day for 70 years, his chemical exposure level is one-third below the federal "no-effect" levels. That according to a University of Florida risk assessment.

The USGA Green Section’s Jim Moore has coined a new term: "The pipeline is an enigmatic marvel, I was told, and can’t argue. So what if there were record numbers of courses under construction, strongly implying that openings would continue apace? The pipeline is an enigmatic marvel, I was told, and can’t be relied upon to deliver a consistent flow of new courses.

Miracles of miracles, another "peak" year was to follow. Here’s the lead from my 1994 story: "Whopping 354 golf courses opened for play during 1993, as public-access development continues to dominate a market that — despite a bevvy of cool-heads — has sustained its considerable momentum."

I vividly remember writing that story because 1) I really like the word "whopping," and 2) I was beginning to get wise. Indeed, further along in the same story I actually tried to pin down the soothsayers by politely confronting them with their

Letters

PRAISE FOR GOLF COURSE EXPO

To the editor:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the 1995 Golf Course Expo in Orlando. I have come to rely heavily on your publication to keep abreast of the golf industry, and have found it a very useful source for products and services that my company needs to be competitive in today’s market. Please keep up the good work with the magazine.

I was extremely pleased with Golf Course Expo. The topics covered in the seminars were very informative, and the quality of the speakers was excellent. I took two of my staff members with me so we could cover all of the things we wanted to hear. I would highly recommend this event to others in the golf course industry. Both the Dye family and Mr. Robert Dedman were fantastic keynote speakers, and

the entire atmosphere of the event was conducive to exchange of information and interaction with others in the business. Thanks again for the excellent work. I am looking forward to receiving your magazine in the future.

Del Ratcliffe

President

Ratcliffe Golf Services, Inc.

Golf Course News

is that leadership?

To the editor:

I was delighted to congratulate you on your October “Members, General Managers: Summer of Their Discontent?” [Leslie commentary, page 8] for your very interesting comments. It is unfortunate that the American golfing public and those possessing leadership roles have such minimal understanding of golf course management-related issues.

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(Continued on page 14)

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Unfortunately for the golf course superintendent, those same members, green chairmen and general managers who are so quick to terminate someone, are the same people that will so readily accept all the credit when things are in peak condition. But who wants to argue? So what if there were record numbers of courses under construction, strongly implying that openings would continue apace? The pipeline is an enigmatic marvel, I was told, and can’t be relied upon to deliver a consistent flow of new courses.

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(Continued on page 14)
**Confused By Particle Size Claims?**

**We Asked An Independent Laboratory To Level The Playing Field.**

The Andersons has long prided itself on its innovative technology regarding our uniform, mini particle sizing capabilities. And, according to recent independently conducted research, we have every good reason to take pride. After all, our greens grade products were tested against our leading competitors — Scotts, Lebanon and Vigoro — and the results were convincing.

**The Importance of Proper Sizing and Uniformity**

There are two key measurements that help determine the performance of a greens grade fertilizer product.

- **SGN (Size Guide Number).** This has to do with the size of the granules. For greens, the particles need to be very small to penetrate the turf canopy and not interfere with playability. On the other hand, particles can’t be too small or they can be blown away — dust-like — during application.

- **UI (Uniformity Index).** This has to do with size uniformity. Granule uniformity is critical to ensuring the even distribution of product during application. Granule ballistic characteristics change according to size. The more uniform the granules the more controllable the application. The Andersons SGN specification for ideal greens grade performance is 90 to 100.

**Lab Results For Greens Grade Products**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>SGN#</th>
<th>UI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Andersons</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotts</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vigoro</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Application Uniformity**

- **Trajectories For Several Sizes Of Granular Raw Materials (Granular Urea)**
  - 3.3 mm / 6.2 ft.
  - 1.6 mm / 8.7 ft.
  - .5mm / 4.2 ft.

- **Uniform Flow**
  - The Andersons greens grade product uniformity helps deliver this product to the turf consistently for maximum effectiveness.

**Count On The Andersons for “Right-Sizing” and Uniformity**

All of The Andersons Tee Time professional golf course products are “right-sized” for specific application requirements. And with our innovative uniformity processing, you can be sure you get the sizing you need particle after particle after particle.

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**MILLER-SELLEN PROMOTES TWO: FRAZEE, WARREN**

ORLANDO, Fla. — Neil Frazee and Eric E. Warren have been promoted to posts as vice presidents at Miller-Sellen Associates, Inc., urban planners and engineers who perform golf course consulting. Frazee has served as senior project manager for the firm since 1990. Warren has served as senior project manager, water resources/ civil engineering and as project engineer since joining the firm in 1990.

**Leslie comment**

*Continued from page 12*

a hot spot, it’s on the opposite side of the sprinkler head.***

• • •

Did summer ever truly come to Colorado? After a spring lengthened to August by lingering snowstorms, Veilö! Snow again, in October. As irrigation systems change according to weather, Denver winters are like a schizophrenic wife. You don’t know what you’re going to wake up to next.***

• • •

You’ve heard of word-of-mouth successes. How about a word-of-computer success? We give two thumbs-up to the USGA and its entrance into the world of the Internet (see story, page 15). Congratulations to Netmester Dean Knuth and the gang. Here’s an ecletic kind of plea: Please more fully address the concerns of golf course superintendents; keep a check on the number of requests for information from the Green Section agronomists, who already are inundated with “paid” work.***

• • •

Somebody sign up those golfing superintendents in Georgia to a long-term playing contract! In September, superintendent Terry Vassey of Berkeley Hills Country Club made his first hole-in-one (and won $10,000) on the challenging 8th hole at The Fields Golf Club in LaGrange, Ga., at the Georgia GCSA’s Superintendent/Vendor Tournament. In November superintendent Jimmy Geter of Marietta Country Club dropped in an ace from 142 yards out at Jekyll Island Golf Club. What was it worth? A Bahamian vacation that includes a cruise ship sail for two to Freeport, with deluxe accommodations at Xanadu Beach and Marina Resort. Could this degree of accuracy scare away future donors? Phew!***

• • •

One of my favorite comments of the summer came during a talk with Palmer Golf Design Co. President Ed Seay. Talking about the use of porous ceramics in root-zone mixes, he said, “We’re getting so high-tech in soil now that dirt’s no longer dirt.”