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“Fertigation is the cake and pHairway is the icing on the cake at Bent Creek.”

Loke, who holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy specializing in turfgrass management from Ohio State University, has been a certified golf course superintendent since 1986. He accrued extensive tournament experience at Firestone Country Club, which hosted seven of the PGA Tour's World Series of Golf and the 1975 PGA Championship during his tenure.

In his "post-Firestone" days he was superintendent for 10 years at Quail Hollow Resort in Mentor, Ohio, where he hosted the 1991 and '92 Ben Hogan PGA Tour event, the Ohio Open and many U.S. Amateur qualifiers. He also worked with Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish on the planning and routing of another 18 at Bent Creek.

A workaholic, Loke is a voting delegate and Certification Committee member of the GCSAA, having previ...
Bator opens consultant firm

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Richard M. Bator, former superintendent at Pine Valley Golf Club, Oak Hill Country Club, Merion Golf Club and Kirtland Country Club has opened a turfgrass consulting enterprise.

"I want to help golf courses 'get back to the basics' in sensible golf course maintenance programs," Bator said, "to help restore original golf course architectural design on existing courses; help with new course grow-in specifications, as well as long-term maintenance programs; assist with proper golf course maintenance building recommendations; provide emergency trouble shooting at any golf course anywhere; show course officials attention to detail at its finest and to provide single- or multiple-visit services."

Willing to travel nationally or internationally, Bator said he enjoys training staff and helping courses prepare for tournament play. "I am another set of eyes, as most successful people like to have a second opinion to maintain their high standards," he added.

Bator prepared Oak Hill for the 1980 PGA Championship; Pine Valley for the 1985 Walker Cup; and Kirtland for the 1997 U.S. Open qualifier. He designed, built and grew in Blue Hills Country Club as well as Gypsum Mills Golf Club both in Rochester, N.Y.

His office is located at 8110 Deepwood Blvd., Suite C-15, Mentor, Ohio 44060; telephone 216-255-6543.

Loke on fertigation

Continued from previous page

Loke is a former secretary-treasurer, current vice president and director of the Central Pennsylvania GCSA; past president and former environmental editor for the Northern Ohio GCSA; former director and member of the Program, Membership, Golf and OPARR (Ohio Pesticide Applicators for Responsible Regulation) committees of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation; and a former director of the OPARR.

"I really like helping other superintendents with their questions about fertigation and acid injection as I like comparing notes with the professional turf manager," he said. "Our fertigation system can easily perform fungicidal chemigation and I speculate that fungicides can be injected at low, less-than-label rates and get the same effect over time.

"We are very proud of the tournament conditioning of Bent Creek during last year's terrible heat and humidity — one of the toughest years for weather on record. We were in the best condition in my 26 years in the business."

No matter what condition your course is in, you'll be judged by the quality of the greens.

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UMass schedules '97 Advanced Green School

HADLEY, Mass. — The University of Massachusetts Extension Service's 1997 Advanced Green School, offering intensive advanced training on plant diagnostics and winter identification of woody plants, will be held at the UMass Hadley Farm here, Feb. 26 to March 12.

The class on winter identification of woody plants will be taught by Associate Professor Jack Ahern from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Feb. 26 and 28 and March 5, 7 and 12.

Diagnosing woody plant problems will be taught from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on those same days by Extension educators Kathleen Hickey, Robert Childs and Gary Couch.

People may apply for admission by Dec. 1 by writing to Advanced Green School, French Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. 01003.