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United States anticipate buying least 4.9 million households in the

Opening Session, Feb. 4, of the 69th

JACOBSEN KEYNOTING FOR GCSAA
ANAHEIM, Calif. — PGA Tour veteran Peter Jacobsen will keynote the Opening Session, Feb. 4, of the 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show here. The annual event, sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will be held Feb. 2-8. Author of the book, "Buried Lies: True Stories from the PGA Tour," Jacobsen has won six Tour events, participated on the 1985 and 1995 U.S. Ryder Cup teams and was player director on the Tour policy board from 1985-85. He owns a golf course design company.

IPM SEMINAR SCHEDULED
PHOENIX — The major concepts of a sound Integrated Pest Management program will be presented by Dr. Karl Danneberger of Ohio State University here Sept. 3. Presented by the Cactus and Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the seminar will focus on managing turfgrass under environmental stress as well as pest management and pesticide resistance. Advanced registration is required. People may call 800-472-7878 for more information.

GA. SETS FIELD DAY, TURF CONFERENCE
GRIFFIN, Ga. — Two Georgia turf events have been scheduled. Georgia’s Turfgrass Field Day has been set for Aug. 27 here. It will feature tours of the research plots, discussions of turfgrass breeding and research and an exhibit area of turf equipment. Meanwhile, the Georgia Turfgrass Association’s 28th annual Turfgrass Conference and Show will be held Dec. 9-11, emphasizing sports and commercial turf management, golf turf issues, turf breeding, landscape and ornamentals. For information, people should contact Douglas Moody at 770-975-4123.

SOD BUYING NUMBERS UP
A recent Gallup poll revealed that at least 4.9 million households in the United States anticipate buying turfgrass sod this year. That is a 36-percent increase from 1996 and far outstrips the 1995 figure of 1.9 million. The survey also reported that in 1996 U.S. households purchased $426.2 million in turfgrass sod — $188.6 of which was professionally installed.

No, this is not sod, which needs repair every couple of years. It’s shag carpet.

Talking Trash
Keeping control of golf course trash in a clean and efficient manner, is accomplished with this ramp up to a trash bin.

By TERRY BUCHEN
LAS VEGAS — One of the best ways to handle golf course maintenance trash is demonstrated at the new TPC at Canyons. The maintenance complex, guided by Kim Byran Wood, features a ramp as the key to collection. Key to the system is an 8-inch-thick concrete ramp, Quick and easy clean-up at Canyons with surrounding walls that are 12 inches thick — all with reinforcing rods (rebar), Wood said. An overhead, colored decorative wall, which shields the employees’ parking lot view of the trash collection.

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Making Magic
Stresses as well as pest management and cultural management at Widow’s Walk Golf Course here — an abandoned gravel site. "He's walking along and finds this ugly carpet under a bush waiting to be discovered by an innovative mind. Such was the case of the sodwall bunker kit in waiting" — Dr. Michael Hurdzanz’s answer to a standard, old-time stackwall bunker.

Fresh from a trip to Scotland, the home of sod-wall bunkers, Hurdzanz was walking the property of what would become Widow’s Walk Golf Course here — an abandoned gravel site. "He's walking along and finds this ugly carpet under a bush, and all kinds of light bulbs go off with him, and him alone," recalled Widow’s Walk superintendent Jeff Carlson.

Voila! The idea of the "carpet-wall bunker" was born. "Maybe this will change the face of American golf a little bit," Hurdzanz said. "It will add spice to a linksy golf course." "As an alternative to sod, I can't think of a better one," said Carlson. "It has the potential to really stay in the industry." "You had to have the right client to try it," Hurdzanz said. "This was the perfect opportunity because of the experimental side of the project. Now that it's done it will be a much easier sell." "I think sodwall bunkers add such a distinctive flavor to a golf course that you can't beat it," Hurdzanz said.

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Inroads in ‘biologica’ research, Nelson reports
Dr. Eric Nelson has an associate professor of plant pathology at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. since 1993. He has done extensive work with biological controls to fight turfgrass diseases and his work has been extensively published. He holds master’s and doctorate degrees in plant pathology from Ohio State University.

Golf Course News: What type of work are you doing on biological controls?
Eric Nelson: We have two approaches. The first is the addition of organic amendments that provide a food source for beneficial microorganisms. The amendments enhance the microorganisms’ activity and control pathogens. We’ve replaced peat moss with compost in top dressing and seen up to 90 percent disease control with the compost amendment. Most of the control has been in foliar pathogens such as dollar spot, brown spot and gray snow mold. We’ve also seen control of pythium root rot, which is interesting because it isn’t a foliar problem. We’ve tried all types of composts: animal manure, yard waste, industrial sludges. Poultry manures and some sludges have worked very well. Brewery sludges have been very effective, having a sustainable supply with predictable results.

The second approach is specialized microbial inoculants. That involves spraying bacteria, fungi or actinomycetes (bacteria that grow like fungus) on turf to control disease. We’ve experimented with all sorts of bacteria, in both liquid and dry form. We’ve demonstrated that the bacteria can persist for at least 10 years on the turf. The bacteria are introduced in water, then into the turfgrass.

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