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Twenty-three Sarasota-area courses have resorted to legal means in their fight for tax justice.

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OLD TOM & MORE
Ben Crenshaw will receive the GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award next month in Las Vegas. But there is so much more on the docket: Tournaments, elections, seminars.

New wetlands regs impact development
By MARK LESLIE
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has changed a wetlands permitting regulation that will affect commercial and residential developers across the board. Ten percent of golf course projects built the last few years would have been affected by the new parameters had they been in effect, according to Dr. Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc. of Wheaton, Md.
The regulation is Nation Wide Permit (NWP) 26, which is routinely re-issued every few years. In recent years, it has allowed projects affecting 1 to 10 acres of isolated wetlands or stream headwaters. People could impact as much as 1 acre of wetlands without seeking permits. Under the new parameters, which went into effect in December, the 10-acre maximum of wetlands that a development can affect has been reduced to 3 acres and the 1 "free" acre.

Pesticide-free courses not in the cards?
By MARK LESLIE
COLUMBUS, Ohio—Faced with the rigors of foot traffic and golfer demands for low cutting heights, consistent ball lie and roll, superintendents' attempts to be pesticide-free are futile, according to a panel of scientists.

Speaking here at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Show & Conference, Drs. Dave Sletlar and Joe Rimespach of Ohio State University and Dr. Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services concluded that, with a handful of exceptions, no golf course is pesticide-free.

Newly capitalized Troon Golf targets upscale daily-fee market
By PETER BLAIS
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—Formation of a new partnership between Scottsdale-based Troon Golf Management and Starwood Capital Group LLC of Greenwich, Conn., should help Troon expand its golf course management portfolio and acquire additional properties.

“We're looking at the East and Midwest,” said Troon Golf President and Chief Executive Officer Dana Darnell. “We'll probably double our size to about 20 properties in the next 12 months.”

Troon Golf's new partner, Starwood, is a 50-50 partner with Goldman Sachs in Westin Hotels. It also

McGinnis: Supers need more credit, support
By PETER BLAIS
PEORIA, Ariz.—Getting course owners and club members to appreciate the contributions of their superintendents will be the primary goal of new Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Paul McGinnis.

“Superintendents simply don’t receive the support and credit they deserve,” said the head superintendent at Moon Valley Country Club here, who will assume the GCSAA presidency at the association's annual meeting in Las Vegas this February.

“We have quotes from Ben Crenshaw, Tom Watson and Rees Jones testifying to the superintendent’s importance. But the word hasn’t gotten out enough, yet. We're planning educational seminars for owners and green chairmen at both the annual meeting and at regional seminars around the country.

“We'll continue to use Newsline [the GCSAA newsletter], which is mailed to

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