Stormwater runoff battle rages on in Fla.

By J. BARRY MOTHESS

SARASOTA, Fla. — A group of 27 Sarasota golf courses continues to battle the Sarasota County government over stormwater runoff assessment bills that have cost some courses as much as $46,000 per year and in some cases seriously threatened their survival.

The courses, organized as the Suncoast Golf Course Association, say the rates are far too high and unfair when compared to lower rates assessed to other agricultural-related operations in the county like farms, nurseries and pastures. The group has filed two lawsuits over the stormwater assessment issue which are still pending. One challenges the level of the assessment rate. The other seeks a rebate for what the golf courses contend is excess money they have paid in assessment rates for the past two years.

Stormwater runoff assessments became a hot issue for the Sarasota-area courses starting in 1995 when turf areas became subject to assessments. Prior to that, the courses paid assessments that related only to parking lots and other non-turf areas.

The new rates, approved by the county’s Board of Continued on page 44

Safety programs too often overlooked in planning

By MARK LESLIE

NEW YORK — A backhoe cracks into a natural gas line and — boom — the town of North Benheim virtually blows up. A piece of heavy equipment cuts an underground electrical main, shutting down New Jersey’s Newark Airport for a day. In cases around the country, laborers are struck by heavy equipment, caught in trench cave-ins, bedridden by Lyme disease contracted from a deer tick on a forested job site.

The “heavy-highway” industry, where these

Cart-path rule gets its day in court

By ROB SPIWAK

An incident at Lassing Pointe Golf Course in northern Kentucky may have far reaching implications for the future of “The Cart-Path Rule” around the country. Involving a handicapped golfer, the situation was resolved in October after a year and a half of controversy.

Don Duckworth of Covington, Ky., had a heart attack in 1993. He was not expected to live. Two years later, he had open-heart surgery twice and survived. His doctor told him

Continued on page 38

TPC ON THE RISE

The Tournament Players Club (TPC) at Scottsdale (Ariz.) above is among the growing stable of Tournament Players Club courses operated by the PGA Tour. See story on new TPC, pg. 23

Toro looks toward ’99

By M. LEVANS

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — The Toro Co., and Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, in cooperation with Pinehurst Championship Management, have inked a multi-year agreement that makes Toro the preferred golf course maintenance equipment and irrigation supplier for the Resorts for Pinehurst in North Carolina.

Under the new agreement, Toro will provide

Continued on page 40
The development of creeping bentgrass greens, tees and fairways added a fresh approach to the ancient game of golf: Putting is now faster and truer, bentgrass fairways allow more roll, and along with tees, recover from divot and traffic damage more rapidly. Golfers get around, and today's global players expect bentgrass.

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Timber Trace open for limited play

PINCKNEY, Mich. — Timber Trace Golf Club, a $5 million daily-fee layout northwest of Ann Arbor, has opened for limited public play this fall with a grand opening scheduled for next spring.

Timber Trace was designed by Patrick Conroy and Jim Dewling of Conroy-Dewling Associates. Total Golf of Milford, Mich., where Dewling is president, will supervise daily operations and management of the course.

The layout was carved out of mature oaks, stands of pines and large maples three miles west of D19 near Pinckney. It's set on 160 acres of a residential community and is routed around Lake Wallaby.

Casper to manage Puakea GC

LIHUE, Hawaii — The island of Kauai's newest golf course has opened under the management of Billy Casper Golf Management Inc.

Casper's company will manage the 200-acre, nine-hole Puakea Golf Course, which is located within Grove Farm's 600-acre Puakea development. A 3,000-square-foot clubhouse is also part of the new facility, which is unique in that it isn't located at a resort area, nor is it owned by the county. The course had been under construction since 1990 but was delayed by hurricanes.

The 3,500-yard, par-36 layout was designed by Robin Nelson of Nelson & Haworth of Honolulu.
Ariz. course hatches razorbacks

PAGE, Ariz. — The golf course as endangered fish hatchery? Why not.

The latest example of progressive working relationships between golf courses and environmental groups is unfolding at the Lake Powell National Golf Course, where more than 100 endangered razorback suckers are being raised in two ponds on the picturesque course. Scientists are gauging fish growth in the ponds and releasing some of them into the San Juan Arm of Lake Powell.

The entire Colorado River basin has fewer than 500 razorbacks, according to Richard Mueller, a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. That places the fish on an endangered list for the Colorado River area with up to four other fish. The razorback's natural habitat has been disturbed by dams and the introduction of non-native predator fish that are consuming the razorback spawn.

Last March, hundreds of six-inch-long razorbacks from the Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah were stocked in two ponds at the golf course as part of a program funded by the National Parks Foundation and Arizona Community Grant Foundation. The razorbacks can grow up to 30 inches in length and weigh 10 to 12 pounds. In May, the six-inch razorbacks had grown to 16 inches and many of them were released into Castle Creek on the San Juan Arm of Lake Powell. In another plus for the golf course, the fish feed on algae and invertebrates and keep the surface of the ponds clear at the two-year-old golf course. Students from Page High School have also been contributing to the project with mapping, water testing and other research projects.

Smyth Systems teams with TeetimeNet

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Smyth Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Bristol Retail Solutions, Inc., and TeetimeNet have formed TeetimeNet+, an online golf tee-time reservation system.

Participating courses will be able to make tee-time schedules available to the public 24 hours a day. Customers, via Internet terminals will select the state, city and course where they wish to play. TeetimeNet+ will enable a golfer to check availability, make a reservation and remit payment via credit card.

Bob Smyth, Smyth Systems president and chief executive officer, said the Internet offers courses the largest market at the lowest cost and the most scheduling flexibility, while effectively serving the needs of golfers.

Norman's Wente to open in April

LIVERMORE, Calif. — The Greg Norman-designed 18-hole layout at the Course at Wente is scheduled to open in April 1998.

The hilly, 18-hole upscale daily-fee course is set among the vineyards of owner Phil Wente. Wente, Livermore's leading vintner, said of the course, "For scenery and playability, I'm really excited about it...I think this course can be set up for U.S. Open play."

One of the more memorable of many great views at the Course at Wente comes from the 12th green, where golfers can soak in a panorama that includes the Del Valle Dam, the Veterans Administration compound and Sycamore Grove Park, Mount Diablo and the hazy San Ramon Valley, the Livermore Valley and Brushy Peak. More than 100 feet almost directly underfoot stretches a carpet of vineyards and six of the course's holes.

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OUR QUALITY

November 1997
Adam's Ranch turns to golf

EAGLE, Colo. — A long-proposed ski resort near Vail called Adam's Rib has become Adam's Ranch, a residential and golf course development. St. Louis developer Fred Kummer, who has been pursuing the Adam's Rib project for nearly 30 years, has announced plans to build housing and a sprawling golf resort on the 5,000 acres he owns near Eagle.

The proposed project would include four golf courses, 1,270 upscale homes and a 120-room hotel. Two of the proposed four courses would be private 18-hole layouts designed by Tom Weiskopf. There would also be two nine-hole par-3 courses, one private, one public. Kummer, who owns the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, faces several levels of approvals from various Eagle County departments.

$10 million Rocky River opens

CONCORD, N.C. — The $10 million public Rocky River Golf Club opened for play in September. The 18-hole golf course, designed by golf course architect Dan Maples, is managed by Signet Golf Associates of Pinehurst, N.C. Maples has said one of the biggest challenges in designing Rocky River was working with and around rock formations. Maples said that 250 cubic yards of dirt, which is a quarter million yards worth, were moved to construct the course.

The 18-hole layout is on 312 acres, 171 of which are dry ground and 141 of which are wetlands. Almost 700 feet of bridgewater was done to help get golfers around the course. The course has 51 bunkers, most of which Maples described as "strategic," and a final Maples touch, an 18th green that can be seen as you arrive at the clubhouse. The green site was actually lowered to make that possible.

Portsmouth revamp ready for play

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — The revamped nine-hole City Park course is set to open for public play this month.

The 77-year-old course received a makeover designed by golf course architect Tom Clark and PGA Tour player and Virginia native Curtis Strange. Clark and Strange essentially created nine new holes — three par-4s and six par-3s. The layout's old Bermuda grass greens have been replaced by bentgrass. In addition to the nine-hole course, a new 18-hole bentgrass putting course is being built.

Strange is also serving as a hired consultant on the upcoming year-long restoration of the 18-hole public Bide-a-Wee Golf Club, which is close to City Park.

UAW to build 18 in Mich.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY, Mich. — The United Auto Workers union is building a semi-private 18-hole golf course, clubhouse and nine-hole short course at its meeting complex on Black Lake. Rees Jones has designed the course, which will be built on land featuring rolling hills, red pine and wetlands. The golf course is scheduled to be ready for play by 1999.

FORT RITCHIE OPENS TO PUBLIC

CASCADE, Md. — Fort Ritchie's nine-hole golf course has been opened to public play for the first time in the Army installation's history. The par-35, nine-hole layout measures 3,251 yards. Fort Ritchie was scheduled to close on Oct. 1 and transferred to PenMar Development Corp., which was to redevelop and operate the property.

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NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

November 1997
Grenelefe West reopens

ORLANDO, Fla. — Another stage has been completed in the multi-million-dollar renovations program at Grenelefe Golf & Tennis Resort near Orlando — the restoration work on Grenelefe West.

After being closed for one month for various reconditioning programs, Grenelefe West reopened its doors on Aug. 8. Tees were rebuilt, some bunkers were redefined and other general conditioning work was done, according to Director of Ground Maintenance John Luper.

"We had some difficult battles with the weather and rain, but overall we are very pleased with the work done on the West," he said. "I think guests who are familiar with Grenelefe West will be pleased with what they see."

Grenelefe West will host, for the fourth time, the PGA Tour Qualifying Finals in December.

The West, designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and opened in the mid-1960s, was ranked No. 1 in Florida by Golfweek for the six straight years. It has hosted numerous national and regional golf championships and qualifying events.

Walters, Dye plan to recreate Scotland

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — It might take a great deal of imagination to feel transported to Scotland while standing in Las Vegas. But golf course developer Billy Walters is confident he and golf course architect Perry Dye can do it.

Walters and Dye, the team that created Desert Pines here to recreate the feeling of Pinehurst, are now setting out to build an 18-hole links-style course with a Scottish theme meant to evoke the spirit and soul of the Old Course at St. Andrews. They haven't settled on a name for the course yet.

The clubhouse, which will be about 7,000 square feet, will resemble a castle and should be a memorable feature of the new facility, which is being built on 140 acres of county-owned land adjacent to the Stallion Mountain Country Club. The golf course will measure 7,200 yards from the back tees.

Walters told the Las Vegas Review-Journal, "We want our customers when they walk in to play golf here to experience what it is like to play golf in Scotland. Just like we did in trying to recreate something like Pinehurst at Desert Pines with the pine needles and pine trees, we're going to go to the nth degree at this new course to recreate Scotland."

N.H. hits 100th golf course

GOFFSTOWN, N.H. — The new Stonebridge Country Club, a daily-fee 18-hole layout set to open next spring, gives New Hampshire its 100th golf facility.

Stonebridge, a 6,721-yard, par-72 course designed by Phil Wogan and George Sargent, will be the fourth longest 18-hole course in the state when it opens. But it will offer four sets of tees (the shortest playing to 4,719 yards) to give golfers of all abilities a chance to enjoy the course.

The course — located between Concord and Manchester — is set on gently rolling farmland and wooded land with scenic views to the Uncanoonuc Mountains. Gorham Brook meanders through the property and adds to the ambience of the course and the challenge, as it cuts across several fairways and fronts some greens. The back nine at Stonebridge will feature three par-5s.
Bintz Apple on rebound

FREELAND, Mich. — When the new 18-hole Apple Mountain Golf Course opens next year, it will represent another significant improvement in the transformation of the year-round recreational resort once known as Bintz Apple Mountain. The 18-hole layout, scheduled to open next summer, will feature some dramatic elevation changes. Two holes have tees located on Apple Mountain's ski hill. One of those, the sixth hole, features a 75-foot drop from the back tees to a fairway nestled in a grove of trees. On a clear day, the tee offers a panoramic view of the Saginaw Valley area.

The new Apple Mountain course was designed by golf course architect John Sanford, Jr., who also designed the Quest in Houghton Lake and the Sawmill in Saginaw Township.

The course is dotted with 100 bunkers and nine ponds and has four tee areas on each hole with a course distance ranging from 5,088 yards from the front tees to 6,972 yards from the back tees. The complex is 20 miles from Bay City.

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Stonebridge just about recovered

ROME, Ga. — Greens and fairways at the daily-fee 18-hole Stonebridge Golf Club have almost recovered from damage caused two years ago by below-freezing temperatures.

Damage caused by low temperatures during the winter of 1995-96 — as low as 2 degrees — needed at least two growing seasons to repair. Stonebridge is at the end of the second growing season following the damage.

Meanwhile, Stonebridge has been offering free replacement of metal spikes with soft spikes in preparation for a soft spikes only policy as of Jan. 1, 1998.

UNI CONSIDERS GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — The University of Northern Iowa may join the growing list of colleges and universities with golf courses either on or near campus. University officials are considering developing a golf course and retirement community near campus, according to the Courier of Waterloo. Early discussion have focused on an 18-hole course that would serve the public and the university. The course would be lined with townhouses for retired citizens and also possible assisted-living housing.

WORK STARTS ON OLD ISLAND

INDIAN SPRINGS, Va. — Work has started on the new 18-hole course at Old Island Golf and Residential Community. The 6,855-yard, par-72 daily-fee layout was designed by golf course architect Tom Clark of Kensington, Md. The course will be set on the former Eastman Farm at Indian Springs and feature bentgrass tees, greens and fairways. The project is being developed by Golfsource. The course will be managed by Golf Unlimited of Richmond, Va.
Start communicating, reap rewards

Isn’t it a shame that we have to be constantly reminded about the importance of the human element in business.

Why do we so easily forget that communication is probably the most crucial element to making a business run? Not just employer/employee communication, which is crucial, but supervisor/employee and employee/employee communication.

It’s the glue that binds people together, and in turn, keeps every operation afloat.

A slap on the back from an employer is as important to the spirit of a business as the chat about last night’s game among co-workers or inter-organization banter about an upcoming company function. Sure, there are a few in any operation who feel as if they can’t be bothered with such idle nonsense, but I’ve come to learn that the more I understand the people working around me, the more I understand how to work with them — and work more effectively.

As Terry Buchen’s “A case for non-traditional employee relations” (page 21) points out, nothing can be accomplished without people. Ask any employer and they’ll tell you that personnel is the number one issue on any day of any week. If you manage or supervise a maintenance or course-construction crew, my advice is to read Terry’s piece first and then take a few active steps:

• Go from employee to employee and ask them how they’re doing.
• Ask if they had a chance to change something in the standard day-to-day operations, what would it be?
• Plan a company event for no reason but to get together — munchies, food, maybe even a keg of beer (away from the mowers, of course).
• At the event make the announcement that you plan to get together with the crew once every other month to go over operational plans.

Sound silly? Think again. We hear about building-business-to-business relationships as the key to growing business, but you can’t do that unless you have a sound business to grow.

Granted, some of you may have an established and proven program going right now. But for those who don’t I don’t dare you: Increase your inner-office communications then write us and tell us the results. I personally guarantee rewards.

One quick note: Mark Leslie did an excellent job putting together our special Safety by Design section (see cover & pages 31-34). Safety is yet another issue we don’t take into consideration until it’s too late. Plan ahead, stay on task.

Remember the Boston Tea Party?

Once upon a time in these democratic United States, the call was simply: “Uncle Sam Wants You.” Now our government is asking that Father and Mother as well as Uncle, wanting to control absolutely everything, in just one instance, and to finance this control it wants a good portion of what they own, or hope to own as well as themselves.

It’s time to ask Father/Mother/Uncle Sam: Did you ever hear the story about the man with the goat that laid the golden egg? Kill the goose and there is no more golden egg. Unc.

But this is a habit to swell for some in our federal, state and local governments. Take, for instance, Sarasota County in our beautiful state of Florida. Golf is big in Florida. No, it’s huge. It means billions (Capital B) of dollars to the state every year. It is the state’s goose that lays the golden eggs. Golf courses in Florida — Sarasota County included — pay their fair share of every tax known to man. Or they thought they did.

That was until county officials decided stormwater runoff was taxable (See story, page 1). “Assessment” is the word, but who’s quibbling?

However foolish if it rains on your property. And if you own a lot of property it had better be a farm, nursery or pasture. If it’s a golf course — Whack! Off with your hand.

While assessments were made to help pay for the county’s new stormwater system, golf courses saw their turf areas added to their parking lots assessable. The result: Bills increased by as much as 20 times over.

This is especially eye-raising since studies have shown that turf is an excellent filter for surface runoff water, whereas agricultural land is hazardous in that regard. Some communities are even seeding turfgrass areas around stormwater drains in order to screen out debris. It seems none of those enlightened communities are in Sarasota County, hm-n?

At many golf courses this kind of cash ($30,000 to $46,000) can mean choosing between paying the assessment or letting go an employee or two. I suppose for a few a it could mean the thin difference between finishing the year in the red or black. And, Sarasota County, in case you were wondering: Red does not equal gold.

Dr. George Snyder of the University of Florida at Belle Glade made an interesting comment about the public’s flight at the presence of even insignificant amounts of pesticides in drinking water.

“By and large, it’s a pretty safe industry,” he said. “You’re dealing with dirt, not 2-by-4s.”

Corky Buell, operations manager for golf course manager builder Landscape Unlimited, said employees can shut down any operation and feel unsafe. He observed: “Fear is nature’s way of keeping you from doing something stupid. You have to listen to your gut once in awhile.”

The topic of safety on golf course construction sites raised an interesting insight from one of the industry’s most quotable guys, Seed Research of Oregon’s Skip Lynch, who once worked with Jack Nicklaus’ construction division.

“By all means, a pretty safe industry,” he said. “You’re dealing with dirt, not 2-by-4s.”

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GOLF PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

Oh, Canada: Study shows golf at new high among our northern neighbors

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Anti-golf activists deplore the impact of golf in Asia

By ANDREW OVERBECK

A s I study the growth of golf in Asia in the coming year, I will interview hundreds of golf course managers, developers, and course designers to discuss with them the challenges of building and operating golf courses in this part of the world. However, in my pre-departure research, I came across two Asia-based anti-golf course movements: the Global Network for Anti-Golf Course Action (GNAGA) and the umbrella organization, the Global Anti-Golf Movement (GAGM).

My curiosity peaked and I arranged to meet with Gen Morita, the International Coordinator for GNAGA in Tokyo, and a GAGM member (who wished to remain anonymous) in Bangkok. I discovered that their ideological stance against golf was not only difficult to swallow, but also proved to be a rude introduction to golf in Asia. Their minds, Jack Nicklaus is not a world class golfer and course designer—he is the devil incarnate.

The two movements didn’t come together until the early 90’s, well after the initial golf course boom in many Asian countries. Even then, they were only a loose network of environmentalists and academics that sought to heighten public awareness concerning the dangers of golf course developments.

Since 1993, they have sponsored a “World No Golf Day” every April the 29th, and have produced yearly “updates” that chronicle the efforts of anti-golf efforts worldwide. In addition, they have petitioned governments to suspend further support for golf course developments and they have hounded developers in an attempt to disrupt projects. For example, GAGM has petitioned the European Golf Association’s Ecology Unit, the International Olympic Committee to keep golf out of the Olympic Games, and the government of Burma to end their pro-golf “Visit Burma Year” campaign.

Overbeck on location in Thailand

GNAGA has been even more proactive, seeking to block the development of a golf course in South Kona, Hawaii, with a lawsuit. The beguiling activists bought stock in Japan Airlines (JAL), which is financing the course, and are in turn suing JAL on the ground that their investment is not in the best interest of the company and its stockholders. These organizations utilize grassroots organizing, political lobbying, and sophisticated legal tactics in order to accomplish their goals.

Their opposition to golf course developments is multi-faceted, citing many cultural, social, economic, and environmental factors. According to this definition, golfers typically desire very little cultural authenticity since all of their time is spent on the golf course and around resort developments. Further, activists allege that when these bands of evil golfers emerge from their dens of sin and destruction (golf courses) they often engage in “hedonistic, selfish and disrespectful behavior,” thus damaging the social structure of communities. If you think these claims are outlandish, read on.

The anti-golf movement is extremely adamant about environmental destruction. They contend that golf courses disrupt the natural environment by reshaping landscapes and polluting fragile eco-systems. They also accuse golf course developers of tampering with local water supplies—either illegally drawing water and depleting local supplies or flooding agricultural fields with course runoff.

Meanwhile, the activists claim that golf course developments involve huge “land grabs” which in many cases have been sponsored by national governments. This

Continued on page 46
Introducing the Greens King™ Electric, an innovative triplex greens mower that ensures peace of mind – and peace and quiet. It's totally electric, and features a 48-volt solid state system that provides enough power to cut up to 20 greens without recharging. It also offers Jacobsen’s exclusive, patented FlashAttach™ reel-mount system, which lets you change reels in 30 seconds without tools. And unlike other mowers, the Greens King
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The service is free and the results are fast. To find a qualified PGA Professional for your facility, call 1-800-314-2713.
ARGYLE CC NAMES BARRETT

SILVER SPRINGS, Md. — Mike Barrett has been appointed superintendent at Argyle Country Club here. He has been a member of the Argyle staff since February 1996 when he assumed the position of assistant superintendent. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Institute of Applied Agriculture, Barrett has a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Baltimore. He has extensive experience in turf management and was employed at Greenspring Valley Hunt Club and Cat-Tail Creek Country Club prior to joining the Argyle staff.

GCSAA UNVEILS COLLEGE GUIDE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has released a publication providing a concise profile of turfgrass management programs offered by two- and four-year colleges and universities. The GCSAA College Guide to the Golf Course Management Profession is designed to help students select the program that best fits their needs. Copies may be ordered through the GCSAA Bookstore at 800-974-2722.

FLORIDA CITES CAMPBELL

TAMPA, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) has honored Charlie Campbell with its coveted Wreath of Grass Award for outstanding contributions to the turfgrass industry. Campbell has more than 40 years experience in the turfgrass industry. He is currently a manufacturer's representative at DowElanco. He has been an active member of the FTGA since 1986, serving on the FTGA board for six years and several committees including the Show and Membership committees in 1996-1997.

KILLINGTON JOINS AUDUBON

KILLINGTON, VT. — Killington Golf Course has joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), a national program designed to help landowners preserve and enhance the environmental quality of their property. "It's a great program to make people aware the environment on the golf course," said superintendent Chris Voutas. "We're putting out bluebird and bat boxes and encouraging wildflower growth. We'll also cut down on water and pesticide usage."

Dicamba, 2,4-D study finds little soil, water impact

BELLE GLADE, Fla. — A two-year study of a U.S. Golf Association-specified golf green by University of Florida Profs. George Snyder and John Cisar has found that concentrations of the herbicides 2,4-D and dicamba were low in the thatch and soil and far below federal maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in percolate water.

"Dicamba and 2,4-D, particularly dicamba, are pretty mobile in sand soils, and most people don't want any in their drinking water," said Snyder, adding, "As far as I know, they are not of any health concern at the concentrations we observed."

Both of the phenoxy acid-type herbicides are widely used to control weeds in turfgrasses and general agriculture. They have been found frequently in surveys of pesticides and surface waters — and less commonly in ground water — and have therefore raised public concern. Although they have been studied frequently in agricultural settings, little research has been done on their persistence and mobility when applied to turfgrasses, especially high-sand-content USGA greens.

Snyder and Cisar, who presented their findings to the recent International Turfgrass Society meeting in Australia, reported that the average concentration

EPA places eight states in one-stop reporting system

MINNEAPOLIS — Gov. Arne H. Carlson has announced that Minnesota is one of eight states selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive grants of $500,000 each for developing a system of "one-stop" reporting of environmental information. The grant was awarded to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The other states are Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, Texas, New Mexico and Oregon.

"By accepting this grant, Minnesota is committed to being an active partner in the One Stop Reporting program and continuing our leadership in environmental reform," said Carlson.

EPA's grant program is designed to assist and encourage states to fully implement a comprehensive environmental reporting and data management system. The goals of the One Stop Reporting Program include reducing the record keeping and reporting burden of the regulated community; fostering geographic approaches to solving environmental problems; and providing the public easier access to environmental data and information.

In determining grant awards, EPA looked for states who had already made substantial investments in data management reforms over a period of years, and were willing to commit to reforms in the future.

"Minnesota is a natural fit for this grant because our agency already has several ongoing activities that are in line with the goals of the grant," said MPCA Commissioner Peder Larson. "This grant will support and encourage our work in reforming our environmental reporting and data management system, yet at the same time it gives us flexibility in how we do it."

Stand behind diversity of another kind

By RONALD G. DODSON

Diversity is a key to the success of life whether we speak of the diversity of opinions, cultures, or beliefs. Diversity challenges us to think, to confront our own perceptions and beliefs. But the challenge makes us stronger, more alert, and aware. The differences among humans combine to make us more complete as a species.

And that's what biological diversity is all about. Biological diversity is a key to the ultimate health and survival of the environment. But what exactly is biological diversity? Why is it so important, and what does it have to do with golf courses?

Biological diversity is the different forms of wildlife and vegetation we might see on a given piece of land. But the diversity of wildlife or the plantlife that we see is not always an accurate indicator of the biological diversity of a site.

What cannot be seen as easily are things like what the birds are eating and what's feeding the things that the birds are eating. Is there adequate habitat for these birds to reproduce genetically intact offspring? You have to think beyond the visible survey and beyond the particular site to truly understand the complexities of biological diversity.

Golf and the Environment

The Honors Course in Ooltewah, Tenn. — a model of biodiversity.

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Continued on page 15

Building Team Spirit, Recognition

A program created to incorporate a team spirit for its maintenance department at The Majestic at Lake Walden in Hartland, Mich., includes this sign. "The ultimate goal is that our guests rarely, if ever, see our maintenance workers as they play the course," said Managing Partner William J. Fountain. "Although this is nearly impossible, the sign at a major crossing has become a great public-relations tool. Our guests can visualize how many talented people we have on our maintenance team, and also see the large variety of tasks that need to be done to maintain our facility on a daily basis. Having The Majestic's maintenance team take pride and responsibility in a specific area, and making it known to guests "has proven to bring our entire facility to a new level," Fountain said.
Industry should be pro-active

Many people and organizations tend to focus on species that are easy to see. Some more cynical scientists refer to these species as the "charismatic mega-vertebrates." These are often species like whales and eagles and wolves—species that people rally behind and use as a symbol of the "true" health of our environment. This is not all bad. They serve as a focus for education that can ultimately lead to action.

These "focus" species, however, are most often at the top of the food chain. In actuality, we should be focusing on the bottom of the food chain. This is where the healthy, biologically diverse underpinning exists that supports everything we can see and rally around.

Economic health, like environmental health, depends upon diversity. The more diverse and competitive, the stronger the economy. "Sustainable" development is economic development that is founded on biological diversity.

It means using natural resources in ways beneficial to human beings, now and into the future, and at the same time, not adversely impact biological diversity.

To actually promote sustainable development as opposed to giving "lip-service" support for the concept is difficult for many. It means that we will have to challenge our beliefs, perceptions, and convictions and recognize that there are no perfect answers.

We need to understand that we can't have total sustainability right now no matter how hard we try. But we can, and we have a responsibility, to try.

We have to take small steps toward sustainability, through research and development, through individual and collective action, and by being willing to discuss how we can get there from here.

So the question is, what does biological diversity and sustainability have to do with golf?

Good question. Audubon International has taken a lot of hits from other environmental organizations because we work with the golf course industry. Even my own staff sometimes wonders why we're working with so many golf courses when we're an environmental organization.

I just remind them that it's all part of the diversity.

The fact is that Audubon International doesn't have a "golf program." We have an environmental education program that we offer to golf courses.

And we did it because of our belief in biological diversity and sustainability.

It has been gratifying to find allies in the conservation field working on golf courses—people we didn't know existed before we started the program, but who also believe in the environmental value of working with golf courses.

We'd like to see golf become an environmental leader in the free enterprise system.

Golf can become the economic engine that runs ecological restoration and endangered species protection, and promotes biological diversity, conservation and sustainability while at the same time providing jobs and recreational opportunities for humans.

Golfers, golf course architects, golf course developers, and the entire golf course industry need to think beyond the borders of their respective courses and projects, and beyond the game itself.

It is, in fact, a game. But, with a willingness to face the challenge, this game can be a catalyst for community involvement, environmental improvement, and the spirit and diversity of human beings as well as wildlife and habitat.
American Golf honors Coste
American Golf Corp. has created an academic scholarship in memory of former Regional Superintendent Pete Coste, who died recently of a brain aneurysm.

"Pete Coste dedicated his life to golf and golf maintenance and he was instrumental in shaping the careers of many aspiring superintendents," said Dean Wochaski, director of maintenance for American Golf's Northeast Region. "This assistance will hopefully help our candidates," he added.

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With small crew and big ambitions, Ondo does it all

by Larry Kieffer

INTER PARK, Fla. — Joe Ondo is a working man. He is just as likely to be found riding a mower, pushing a spreader, cutting a cup, grinding a reel, or shaping a rebuilt green at Winter Pines Golf Club here as he is sitting at a desk or riding a cart.

But if you find him at his desk, he may be working on business for the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, of which he is president, or maintaining his certification, writing a note of encouragement to a colleague, or fine-tuning the schedule for his staff of seven.

And if you find him riding a cart, he may be working on getting his handicap down from a 3. At another time he may be figuring out the details for the next in-house renovation project at this 5,400-yard, par-67, daily-fee course that hosts more than 80,000 rounds a year in one of Orlando’s oldest upscale neighborhoods.

In case you missed it, Joe Ondo maintains a course that operates year-round, seeing 80,000-plus rounds annually, with a staff of eight counting himself, and still finds time to maintain his certification and a 3-handicap, lead one of the largest superintendent organizations in the nation ... and undertake major renovation projects with his own crew.

With a small crew and big ambitions, Ondo and understanding and visionary owner Ed McMillin have found a way to improve their course: They do things slowly and deliberately, one step at a time.

“All you can do is plan as best you can, but take each day separately and deal with what it brings you to the best of your ability,” Ondo said. “Don’t be afraid to work hard and put in the hours it takes to get the job done. Good things will eventually happen and you’ll be a better person for it.”

Nobody knows who designed Winter Pines when it was built in 1962, but five new holes were designed by Gardner Dickinson and Bud Timbrook in 1977 when part of the original front nine was sold for real-estate development. Two years later, Ondo arrived and renovation of the rest of the course began shortly thereafter.

Among the projects they have undertaken: installing an automatic irrigation system and two miles of drainage lines; constructing more than 6,000 linear feet of concrete cart paths; planting trees, including more than 100 cypress; rebuilding eight greens that had been “pushed up” out of muck with no underdrains and planted to Tifgreen, the venerable Tifton 328 Bermuda grass.

While it was impractical and cost-prohibitive to core out the muck-based greens, the sod was stripped, herringbone drainfields were added to the base, and greens mix was added to the surface to prove a well-drained root zone for new Tifdwarf sod. Working at a pace of one green per season, seven of the greens have been completed.

Ondo had excellent training for the challenges of his long tenure at Winter Pines. A native of Kinsman, Ohio, he worked at the local Bronzewood Golf Course while in high school. He continued on page 19

Joe Ondo, the working superintendent, applies mole cricket bait to a hot spot.
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Focus: Joe Ondo
Continued from page 17
entered Youngstown (Ohio) State University on a golf scholarship.

"I started out as an engineering major, but calculus and physics and I didn't get along. I switched majors to education, but didn't really like it. I visited my friend, Carl Bronson (son of Bronzwood GC owner Jim), who was in the golf course operations program at Lake City ( Fla.) Community College.

"After one visit, I knew I had found a home."

Ondo graduated with an associate's degree in 1975 and immediately landed a job as assistant superintendent at Sharon ( Pa.) Country Club. In 1978 he moved to Lost Tree Country Club in North Palm Beach with his boss and mentor, John Lapika, now superintendent at Annadale Golf Course in Mississippi. Six months later, Ondo took over at Winter Pines, thanks to an interview arranged by Lapika, who had been superintendent there in the early 1970s.

Ondo's management style stresses teamwork, a necessity for such a small staff.

"The crew came up with a unique path-edging system that works for them," he noted. "One guy edges and then a second person follows with a Flymo. The Flymo chops up the clipped-off runners, mows the turf and helps scatter the debris. They follow up with a blower, which scatters the remainder, leaving nothing to rake or shovel up."

Team building leads to longevity. One of the Winter Pines crew members has three years' seniority over Ondo; two others came on board shortly after him.

One of the latter, Bob Keeth, had been superintendent at Orlando's Rosemont Golf Course. "I first met Bob when I was a student on the Lake City summer bus tour," Ondo said. "He lives just down the street and after he left Rosemont, he came by one day looking for a job. He's been here 18 years."

"Having mature, responsible operators helps make the equipment last longer. We have a 1979 Toro HTM fairway mower that is still going strong."

Taking care of his equipment is a trait that goes back to his training at Lake City. Ondo still takes his turn at grinding reels.

A member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) since 1980, and a certified superintendent since 1986, Ondo credits much of his success to his professional affiliations. He has served the Central Florida GCSA as external vice president for 14 years and as president for two. Despite professional accomplishments, he first gained statewide recognition in Florida golfing circles for his prowess with a different set of golf tools: He won the Florida Publix championship in the early 1980s and has taken several other amateur titles since.

He has represented Florida in several GCSAA championships, scoring a hole-in-one at Grand Cypress near Orlando in the 1990 event.

"If you want to know what kind of a person Joe is, just watch him play golf," wrote Joel Jackson, superintendent and editor of the Florida Green. "Thoughtful club and shot selection ... smooth, unhurried, powerful swing ... precise accuracy ... consistent and determined execution ... appreciative but humble with the results ... relentless competitor."

In his spare time (he claims to have it!) Ondo plays golf, reads and spends time with Kathryn, his wife of 14 years. "I try to play in as many amateur golf tournaments in the state as time and money will allow. I like to read about golf — work-related subjects, the history of our profession and the history of the game itself — so I subscribe to a lot of magazines and collect books on those subjects," he said.

Editor's note: Adapted with permission from an article in The Florida Green by Joel Jackson.

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Working with you.
A case for non-traditional employee relations

By Terry Buchen

Williamsburg, Va. — I have taken unscientific random opinion polls from some very successful CEOs of some successful companies nationwide, who also happen to be prominent golfers as well. Some of the results are interesting.

My favorite question to ask the captains of industry is, What is the most successful way to deal with employee/employer relations? The most resounding, consistent answer they gave is: "We talk to each other."

What a great answer. Think about it for a minute. "We talk to each other."

Most problems with employees usually originate if a supervisor has not totally communicated to them what they are unhappy about or what is expected of them in their job performance, or if an employee has not totally communicated their problems, or their ideas are not heard from a supervisor.

The most successful superintendents I have visited in my travels are great communicators and "people persons," above and beyond the call of duty. These supers have said many times that:

• growing grass is the easiest part of the job;
• nothing can be accomplished without people; and
• people issues are the hardest and most important part of their job performance.

It is interesting to note that most agronomy schools in this country spend the least amount of class time on employee relations/personnel management, etc., while spending the most time on agronomy/turfgrass management issues.

The second most popular answer to the question about employee relations is the most important: Trust!

Every aspect of everyday life, both at the workplace and off the job, involves trust. And the more successful operations there are in golf course maintenance, the more trust there is in each and every golf course management operation.

Do you trust your employees? Do your employees trust you?

The most successful superintendents are good communicators with their employees as they "talk to each other" and "trust each other."

To further explore the trust issue, consider some non-traditional ways to make important management decisions that affect employee/employer relations in the course maintenance department. Is an employee time clock really necessary when an individual time sheet filled out by each employee can do the job just as well, implying trust between supervisors and employees?

✓ Do employees have to punch in and punch out for lunch, or can the honor system work just as well if there is trust?
✓ Except for a listing of employee benefits and important safety issues, why is an employee manual really wanted or needed?
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TPC network takes off with new construction

By PETER BLAIS

The network of PGA Tour Tournament Player Club facilities will reach the quarter-century mark by the year 2000 with seven courses currently under construction or in planning and others being discussed, according to Chris Smith, director of special projects for the PGA Tour.

The latest course to come aboard is the TPC at Wakefield Plantation in Raleigh, N.C. The Hale Irwin design broke ground Sept. 16 and is the first TPC course to be announced as the future home of a Nike Tour event, Smith said.

"It [the number of TPC facilities] is expanding because of the overall success of the TPC network," said Smith, adding that TPC clubs have garnered a number of operational and design awards.

The TPC network runs the gamut from private to public to resort facilities. With the exception of the TPC at Eagle Trace, which yielded the Honda Classic to the recently opened (1996) TPC at Heron Bay, all the PGA Tour Golf Course Properties owned and/or operated by the PGA Tour host Tour events.

The design arm of the PGA Tour — PGA Tour Design Services — works with the architect that the developer hires at each facility to make sure the Tour's needs are addressed. A PGA Tour player is usually also involved as a consultant or designer on the project. "Player involvement is important in the design of all TPC courses," Smith said. "All are built with the capability of hosting a major tournament, whether immediately or down the road."

Of the six courses currently under construction or in planning, three already have tournaments planned: The Energizer Senior Tour Championship at the Lanny Wadkins-designed TPC of Myrtle Beach (S.C.) due to open in 1998; the John Deere Classic at the D.A. Weirgth-designed TPC at Deere Run in Moline, Ill., opening in 1999; and the Burnet Senior Classic at the TPC of The Twin Cities opening in the year 2000 in Minneapolis.

In addition to the Myrtle Beach facility, three other TPC courses will come on line next year: TPC at Jasna Polana in Princeton, N.J.; TPC at Virginia Beach; and TPC at Snoqualmie in Seattle.

There's a huge benefit to tournament sponsors who use a TPC venue to host their tournament, Smith said. It gives

Continued on page 24

$10M in working capital pumped into Golden Bear

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Golden Bear Golf, Inc. has announced completion of a definitive credit agreement with SunTrust Bank for a $10 million revolving credit facility to be used to finance the working capital needed to fund the company's continued growth as well as for general corporate purposes.

"We are pleased to have arranged additional working capital financing, especially for our rapidly growing Paragon Construction division, which through June ... has won contract awards in excess of $90 million for projects expected to be completed over the next nine to 24 months," said Dick Bellinger, president and CEO of Golden Bear Golf, Inc.

"We are also actively pursuing possible additional financing which could take a variety of forms including public offerings or private placements of debt or equity securities, or bank financing."

Under the terms of the commitment, the revolving credit facility will mature in two years with an option for a one-year extension. Borrowings thereunder will be secured by company assets, excluding certain golf center properties and other assets pledged to secure other long-term indebtedness.

Completed on page 25
TPC Network
Continued from page 23

them rent-free access to a tournament site as opposed to having to find a spot and pay rent. That translates into a bigger charitable donation.

Myrtle Beach is a good example of a community that worked with the PGA Tour on a new facility, Smith said. The announcement for the new TPC of Myrtle Beach facility was held at The Dunes Club, which had hosted the Senior Tour Championship, Smith said. Myrtle Beach Golf Holiday, the major golf marketing organization for the Grand Strand, is a partner in building of the course.

What does the PGA Tour look for in deciding on a new TPC site? "Our mission," said Keith Tomlinson, vice president of TPC Development, "is to be in locations that allow us to improve existing tournaments, provide a location that is designed for spectators from the outset, challenge the Tour pro and entertain the average golfer. We also provide a site where the tournament sponsor doesn't have to pay a rental fee. Charities are generally

The Network
The PGA Tour owns and/or operates 14 golf facilities, has seven under construction or planned, has four domestic facilities licensed, but not owned or operated by the PGA Tour, and has six international facilities. They include (opening or projected-opening date in parentheses):

**Owned and/or operated**

- **TPC at Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. (Oct. 1980-Stadium, Feb. 1987-Valley):** TPC at Eagle Trace, Coral Springs, Fla. (Oct. 1982); TPC at River Highlands, Cromwell, Conn. (June 1984); TPC at Prestancia, Sarasota, Fla. (Jan 1985-Club, Jan 1987-Stadium); TPC at Avenel, Potomac, Md. (Oct. 1986); TPC at Prestancia, Sarasota, Fla. (Jan 1985-Club, Jan 1987-Stadium); TPC at Avenel, Potomac, Md. (Oct. 1986); TPC at Prestancia, Sarasota, Fla. (Jan 1985-Club, Jan 1987-Stadium); TPC at Avenel, Potomac, Md. (Oct. 1986); TPC at Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Ariz. (Dec. 1986); TPC at Southwind, Memphis, Tenn. (March 1988); TPC at Piper Glen, Charlotte, N.C. (Aug. 1988); TPC at Michigan, Dearborn (1990); TPC at Tampa Bay, Fla. (Jan. 1991); TPC at Summerlin, Las Vegas (Nov. 1991); TPC at Heron Bay, Coral Springs, Fla. (May 1996); TPC at The Canyons, Las Vegas (Oct. 1994); TPC at Sugarloaf, Atlanta (May 1997).

**Under construction or planned**


**Licensed - Domestic**

- TPC at the Woodlands, Texas (May 1984); TPC at Las Colinas, Irving, Texas (May 1984); TPC at PGA West, La Quinta, Calif. (Jan. 1986); TPC at Snoqualmie, Seattle (1996).

**Licensed - International**

- TPC Batoh, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan; TPC Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan; TPC Mission Hills, Kanchanaburi, Thailand; TPC Mission Hills, Khao Yai, Thailand; TPC Mission Hills, Shenzhen, China; TPC Ichihara, Chiba, Japan.

the sponsor. If we provide a rent-free facility, that leaves more for prize money and charitable donations. So our primary focus for development is in areas where the tournament has outgrown its present facility and needs a new spot to reach its potential.

Tomlinson said he also gets occasional calls from developers saying they have a site, although the local sponsor may not be considering a change. "We'll see if it makes sense for the tournament and whether it can operate the other 51 weeks as well," he said.

Much of the growth in the TPC network started during the mid-1980s was tied to the need for sites to hold PGA Senior Tour events. For example The TPC of Michigan hosts the Ford Senior Players Championship, the TPC at The Canyons the Las Vegas Senior Classic and the TPC of Myrtle Beach the Energizer Senior Tour Championship.

Sites that have given up tournaments to the new facilities are usually ready to do so, Tomlinson said. They have generally benefited from the marketing exposure the event gave the older course. Now that memberships and/or tee sheets at the non-TPC tourney site are full, giving up the course for tourney week often proves an inconvenience.

The PGA Tour has traditionally opened two to three new TPC facilities annually, Tomlinson said. The Tour hopes to increase that to five or more a year, doubling the number of facilities within the next five to seven years.

The PGA Tour wants to be at least a part owner and operator of all the new operations it opens, Tomlinson said. "There are few if any brand names in the golf business," he said. "We [TPCs] have some brand name recognition."
Ireland welcomes Kirby design on Old Head

Continued from page 23 and Jack Nicklaus.

Kirby, who is semi-retired and lived at Old Head the last two summers to design the course "totally hands-on," said he had faced challenges this stiff (such as handling lava at Mauna Kea Beach Hotel Golf Course in Hawaii) but "not with this beauty."

"Bobby [Robert Trent Jones Jr.] had a property like this one at Clearwater Bay in Hong Kong, but it was not wide enough. This was difficult to route, but there's plenty of room — 210 acres."

There is a minimum of five tees on every hole and the par-72 layout plays from 5,844 to 6,756 yards. But the routing had to work around an archeological site, which is a hazard on the 10th hole; an old tower house which was restored just inside the main gate to allow the public to watch a seabird colony in the cliffs and caves; the Old Head of Kinsale Lighthouse built in 1853 at the southern extremity of the peninsula.

History and modern-day golf meet here.

Old Head is a national monument and ancient Royal site, fortified by a castle at the narrowest point of the promontory. Its history traces back to between 200 BC and 400 AD, and it is the only definitely known place directly connected by historians and academics with the Eirean Celtic tribe, who gave its name to Ireland as a whole.

The Stone of Accord once stood here. A free-standing piece of limestone with a single hole at the top, it was used by ancient tribesmen who sealed a deal by placing their fingers in the hole at either side.

Kirby kept this history, as well as the natural beauty of the peninsula, in mind in his design.

"I tried to keep it natural," he said. "We moved very little dirt, less than 200,000 cubic yards."

"You do nothing to that hole," he said. "The dogleg was exactly 265 yards to the corner. No designer should ever miss that hole."

Old Head, said the man who has designed scores of courses from America to Britain, Europe, Africa, Asia and Central America, is "the best I've ever done."

The wind will be a major factor. So will the 90 bunkers, most of them cut deep to prevent that wind from blowing out the sand. And the panorama will be a distraction from every hole on the course, Kirby said.

Working with Carr, a three-time British Amateur champion who has played international golf for Ireland 110 times including 10 Walker Cup matches, was wonderful, he said. "He is a fun, delightful guy. He is a friend of the O'Connor brothers and this was his first design project. We thoroughly enjoyed it."

There is no fairway irrigation, encouraging traditional "bump-and-run" play, and builders planted colonial bentgrass on the greens and an 80-20 mix of fescue and bentgrass on the fairways.

Kirby said a limit of 20,000 rounds a year will be played on Old Head Golf Links. Once that limit is met, it will be shut down to preserve its conditioning.

Carts? They will be available as a concession to group play by overseas corporations who normally demand the option, Kirby said.

Area businessmen expect Old Head to draw visitors, and more hotel rooms are being built in Kinsale.

"This course could host the Irish Open some day," Kirby said.

• • •

Meanwhile, Kirby is the lead architect on Hook Head Golf Links in Hook Head, Wexford County, Ireland.

Grading has begun on the property and it should open in another year or two, he said. It is a tight site for an 18-hole track — allowing 5,600 yards on less than 100 acres — but seven or eight holes along ocean cliffs.

Michael Cullen, a local developer, has built low-budget holiday cottages in Hook Head and intends golf to be an amenity.
Weiskopf tackles Mich. site rich in assets

By NORMAN SINCLAIR
BELLAIRE, Mich. — Northern Michigan's collection of famed public golf courses will add its first Tom Weiskopf-designed track, which is under construction at the Shanty Creek Resort. As an old Ohio State Buckeye, Weiskopf's first Michigan project is a homecoming of sorts. "This land is very much like Ohio, where I was raised," he said during a recent working visit at the resort in Bellaire, northeast of Traverse City. "You have big trees, constant elevation changes, and natural water features." The Weiskopf course, scheduled to open in 1999, will team up with the resort's 11-year-old Arnold Palmer-Ed Seay design, "The Legend," acknowledged as one of the better resort courses in the Midwest. Shanty Creek's two other older courses were designed by William Diddle and Warner Bowen. "This is a great area for golf," Weiskopf said. "You are only limited by your imagination. You have to try hard not to overdo it." It was his hands-on approach to the construction of the course that sold the resort's managing partners, Terry Schieber and Vic Zucco, on Weiskopf. Despite the critical success his designs have enjoyed around the world, Weiskopf said he limits his jobs to no more than five at any one time. "You have to be able to balance what the owners want with what you can do. Everyone gets equal time on each project," Weiskopf said.

On this warm summer morning, Weiskopf's third visit to the site since construction began last spring, the former British Open champion was setting a brisk pace as he inspected the progress since his last tour. His hands-on style was evident as he studied the tee box and shapes of fairway bunkers on the first hole he inspected. The tees were fine, he said, but the bunkers needed adjustments. Weiskopf first used his boot to redraw the new outlines for the bunkers in the dirt, before switching to a spray gun to outline the new shapes he wanted. He said among his main concerns on these on-site visits are the bunkers and the edges of greens. "You build a course by being there," Weiskopf said. "By being on site often, you limit your mistakes, just like playing the game."

The 9th hole, a par-4 from an elevated tee, down a tree-lined ravine, to a green set in a bowl, gave Weiskopf an chance to put his architectural talent on display. Clambering up the steep incline to the tee, he first studied the tree line and heavy underbrush on the steep face of the embankment on the right side of the fairway. Then he took note of the line of pine trees on the more gentle slope on the left side. The position of a fairway bunker on the apex of the slight dog leg was taken into account, before he marched down through heavy dirt and sandy soil to the roughed out green site. After pacing around the rugged out green site, Weiskopf decided the hole had to be reworked. Despite the muggy 84-degree heat, he trudged back up the hill for one more look. Using ribbons to mark off the clearing line, Weiskopf delineated how far back the trees should be cut to open the hole on the left side of the fairway. He used his spray gun to move the fairway bunker back a few feet. The green was moved over to the right of the bowl, and back another 30 to 40 feet. With a blue grease pencil, he then drew in the changes on the architect's sketch of the hole, making permanent outlines he made in red paint on the dirt. "You have to let the contour of the land tell you what to do, or what you can't do," he said of his on-the-fly redesign of the hole. On his next visit, scheduled for three weeks hence, he will be able to make additional tweaks if needed.

Weiskopf said his philosophy for a resort course with private members is to incorporate some of the characteristics of great traditional golf courses such as}

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L-93 features improved resistance to numerous turfgrass diseases such as dollar spot, gray snow mold and brown patch. So it requires less fungicide in certain conditions than most other creeping bentgrasses. Its upright vertical growth and aggressive establishment helps prevent spike marks. And it's been ranked #1 overall best turfgrass. So the next time your greens, tees or fairways need seeding, give L-93 a try.

L-93 vs. COMPETITION

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<th>Overall Turfgrass Quality Ratings</th>
<th>1996 NTEP Trials, Putting Greens</th>
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Turfgrass Quality Ratings: 9 = Ideal Turf
LSD = 0.2

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Continued on next page
Mount Hawley sports new look

PEORIA, Ill. — Mount Hawley Country Club, which turned 75 years old this summer, had seen better days. "The members felt, quite rightly, the course simply didn't have many memorable holes," explained architect Bob Lohmann. "The greens had no contour, no pizzazz. The bunkers were in disarray. It was just a worn out private club."

Three months and $1.2 million later, none of the above comments apply as Lohmann Golf Designs (LGD) of Marengo, Ill., has completed its full-scale renovation here. With construction assistance from Lincoln, Neb.-based Landscapes Unlimited, Lohmann directed reconstruction of all 18 greens, regrassed all 18 fairways with bentgrass, created five new ponds, improved the tee areas, added appropriate fairway bunkering and installed a new irrigation system.

"This wasn't so much restoration as it was complete renovation," explained Lohmann, vice president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. "The job started out as fairly minor but it snowballed. It ended up being a big job — and we got it done in three months... The members really like it. Some thought you couldn't spend enough money to improve the course. But they came back and now they believe."

Just down the road at the Country Club of Peoria, LGD recently completed a complete reconstruction of all 18 greens and extensive greenside bunker work. "The putting surfaces at Peoria were very small, less than 4,000 square feet, and some had slopes of 6 to 8 percent," said Lohmann. "There was nowhere to put the pin. They had drainage problems. True to his disdain for mounding and other artificial effects, there is very little earth being moved, except from three new ponds and a driving range. As a side-light, the 300,000 cubic feet of dirt from the ponds and the range are being used to create another 40 feet of elevation on the top of the resort's ski hill."

In addition to Palmer, there are resort courses by Jack Nicklaus, Arthur Hills, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Tom Fazio, Gary Player, Tom Doak and Rick Smith within a 40-mile radius of Shanty Creek.

Weiskopf in Mich.

Continued from previous page

Donald Ross' acclaimed layouts at Bloomfield Hills and the Detroit Golf Club. That means the contours and undulation of greens are modest, while blind shots, water close to the green, and deep bunkers are eliminated.

"Strategic value and beauty are what the great courses have in common, and that's what you try to duplicate as you create a whimsy of your own," he said.

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CIRCLE #128

November 1997 27
New Kiskiack adorns Williamsburg

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Offering panoramic views and golf-only settings, Kiskiack Golf Club opened here Oct. 4, just 10 minutes west of Colonial Williamsburg.

Designed by John LaFoy and Richmond-based player consultant Marvin "Vinny" Giles, the Kiskiack layout is a modern classic, featuring parallel fairways. The course measures 6,775 yards from the championship tees and is set in a natural, unspoiled landscape, with gently rolling hills and two sizable lakes that often come into play.

Play at Kiskiack begins with a sweeping view of the overall layout from the elevated tee on the 1st hole. On the par-3 2nd hole, players hit over water onto an island-like green.

Kiskiack features large bentgrass greens and hybrid Bermudagrass tees and fairways. Its practice and teaching facilities include over an acre of grass tee area and foul-weather hitting stations on the driving range plus a 14,000-square-foot putting green and a bunkered chipping area.

Kiskiack is owned and operated by Carolinas Golf Group, a regional golf management firm based in Raleigh, N.C.

For additional information, contact Sally Edwards at 1-800-989-4728.

Sunrise, Colony link to buy nationwide

LAS VEGAS — Sunrise Company and Colony Capital, Inc. have announced the formation of a new partnership to pursue buy-and-develop master-planned residential golf communities nationwide. From its base here, the partnership, Sunrise Colony Co., will aggressively pursue acquisition of residential golf communities, in addition to public and private companies with significant owned properties for development. Its emphasis will be on attracting upscale mature families, "empty nesters," pre-retirees and retirees, as well as established business professionals.

Typical community homes will range in price from $250,000 to more than $1 million, and offer residents such recreational amenities as golf, swimming, tennis and health club facilities.

Sunrise and Colony also announced acquisition of a 738-acre property in Summerlin in Las Vegas from The Howard Hughes Corp. to develop Red Rock Country Club.

When completed, Red Rock CC will be valued at around $650 million, and consist of two golf courses, 1,100 single-family detached homes, a clubhouse, 12 tennis courts, a swimming pool, and other recreational amenities. Sunrise Colony expects to break ground in January.

Summerlin is a 22,500-acre community being developed in the Las Vegas Valley by The Howard Hughes Corp.

"Our new partnership combines the expertise of one of the nation's premier residential and golf course developers with the financial strength of one of the world's leading investors," said William Bone, chairman of the board of Sunrise Co. "We plan to actively pursue mergers, acquisitions and development of country club communities nationwide, and are excited to have teamed with such a respected investment partner as Colony Capital."

Thomas J. Barrack, chairman and CEO of Colony Capital, Inc. said: "We intend to use our financial expertise and global network to identify new acquisition and development opportunities, and position the Sunrise Colony Co. as the consensus leader in the acquisition and development of upscale master-planned, golf course-oriented communities."
Local entrepreneur Bruce Tully is building a prototype for facilities called Skill Golf Links which he hopes will help solve golf's growth problems.

Over the last two years Tully has enlisted some of the nation's top golf industry experts to help research and develop a concept, which he plans to introduce nationally in 21 markets over the next five years. Tully expects to begin construction of his prototype facility on a 26-acre site on Baseline Road in Mesa. He selected this site because of favorable demographics, nearby freeway access and its proximity to Superstition Springs, a vibrant retail center in metropolitan Phoenix. When it opens in the spring of 1998, it will provide a new way to learn, improve and enhance the enjoyment of golf.

An avid golfer since childhood, Tully was frustrated by four key problems facing the growth of the game: time, money, development costs and practice methods. He has founded the Skill Golf Links project while continuing as founder, president and chief executive of The Bellatrix Cos., his Scottsdale environmental consulting firm.

"I see an intimidating game that is too hard for most people to play, takes too much time and costs too much money," said Tully. "That is not a formula for success, and that's what Skill Golf Links is trying to change."

Tully emphasized Skill Golf Links is intended to supplement, not replace, traditional golf.

Inspired by his own experience using flight simulators in the Air Force, he has developed a golf simulator as a unified method of teaching, practicing and playing golf.

"The best part is that Skill Golf is the perfect port of entry for new players, and at the same time can challenge and excite advanced players," he said. It will offer the following advantages:

- Time. A round of Skill Golf will average 90 minutes versus the four-to-five-hour commitment required to complete a traditional round of golf. As an added convenience, Skill Golf Links will be lighted for evening play.
- Money. A round of Skill Golf will cost $20 or less, with the practice facilities available at a nominal additional charge.
- Development costs. A Skill Golf Links facility can be built on as little as 25 acres.
- Practice methods. The cornerstone of a Skill Golf Links facility is a 12-hole course, designed by Bill Phillips, with each "hole" representing one of the game's dozen fundamental shots. While more traditional practice areas will also be available on site, the Skill Golf Links course offers another way for players to develop their games, because in each round they will execute every fundamental skill in golf and use a full range of clubs.

"Some of the top instructors in the country are very excited about Skill Golf," said Tully. "They tell me that the next generation of golf instruction will focus more on reaching a target and less on swing mechanics, and Skill Golf does this by creating realistic shot situations for golfers to master." The Skill Golf concept was also enthusiastically endorsed by a cross-section of average golfers who participated in focus groups, as part of the thorough research and development process.

The 12 situational holes were identified through a consensus of national golf experts, and represent the fundamental shot situations that every golfer needs to perform. They include a chip-and-run, a lob shot, a pitch shot over water, a greenside bunker shot, an undulating lag putt, a mid-iron trouble shot, a pitch over a bunker and stop, a short-iron approach, a mid-iron approach over water, a fairway bunker shot, a fairway wood or long iron shot and a driver tee shot.

There are three tee locations on each hole — low, moderate and high difficulty. Each player gets to play each skill shot three times on each hole, with his best of three shots counting as his score for that hole.

**Skill Golf Links network eyes improving play**

**PopQuiz...**

**SUBJECT:** Milestones in the Development of Laboratory Support for the Construction of USGA Greens

1. Which commercial laboratory developed the use of water release curves to select USGA rootzones and shallow depth sandbased turf systems for optimum agronomic and environmental performance?

2. Which commercial laboratory in 1992 pioneered the industry to shift to the use of organic matter by weight versus volume blending, which is the most significant change in the testing for USGA Greens and sand based turf systems in the last 30 years?

3. Which commercial laboratory pioneered the use of variable tension rootzone evaluation for sand based rootzones which minimizes the chance for turf failure and demonstrated that the use of 40cm tension testing requirement was inappropriate for the evaluation of USGA Greens?

4. Which commercial laboratory pioneered the use of the uniformity coefficient of sand as an evaluation tool to select rootzone construction materials for perched water table golf greens?

5. Which commercial laboratory developed and field tested in 1992 the industry standard for quality control of the construction of sand based perched water table systems?

6. Which commercial laboratory shared five years of documented commercial laboratory and field development research with the USGA Green Section, which represented the bulk of the new changes in the 1993 Recommendations, in an effort to improve the quality of golf greens and minimize the environmental impact of golf courses?

**FACT:** The answer to all of the above questions is Turf Diagnostics & Design.

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Sanford busy in Mexico, Canary Islands as well as Egypt’s Sinai

By Mark Leslie

Puerto Penasco, Mexico — Developer Seven Cities Inc. and golf course designer John Sanford of Jupiter, Fla., are teaming up on major resort projects that will add 36 holes of golf and a large marina on the north end of the Gulf of California here and 27 or 36 holes on the Island of Le Palma in the Canary Islands.

The part-4,055-yard 3rd hole at the John Sanford-designed Sharm El Sheik Golf Resort in South Sinai, Egypt.
Safety incentive programs pay off

By MARK LESLIE

Worker-safety incentive programs are proving effective — and saving six-figure dollars — for golf course builders and developers in what is becoming more of a pro-active issue for the industry. "Much of it is common sense," said Corky Buell, operations manager for Landscapes Unlimited. "It's a lot like the automobile industry installing seatbelts. Now people use them because they see results. It's the same in construction. People see that safety doesn't cost. It actually pays. The insurance industry has not only promoted safety but created a large influence on it."

"Accidents are a real worry for me. They can shut you down," said Joe Niebur, president of course builder Niebur Golf in Colorado Springs, Colo.

And insurance, he said, "can be a major line item. It is more every day. But there is a point system, and fewer accidents can get you major money back at the end of the year."

Insurance companies set a builder's or developer's rates by its accident history. The average rate is 1.0. A company's "modification rate" would be higher if its accident history is worse than average, lower if better.

"When you're talking about premiums in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, it adds up," said Buell, who has lowered Landscapes' modification rate to .75. "Say your annual sales volume is $50 million and you're paying $600,000 for insurance, you could realize a huge savings. That money can go directly to the bottom line and make you more competitive."

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The tale of two incentive programs illustrates how success can be — both for a builder, like Landscapes Unlimited, and a developer, in this case Grand Casinos Tunica in Tunica County, Mississippi.

Landscapes is building a new golf course for Grand Casino on its property. When it began, said Buell, Grand Casino's modification rate was 1.4. Its incentive program has been so successful the rate now stands at .8.

"They needed to establish a severe safety program," Buell said.

That program entailed such things as prizes — from jet skis to a Dodge Ram pickup.

Everyone who logged 1,000 hours of accident-free time qualified for the drawings.

On Grand Casino's first phase of construction — a $200 million project — 348 people logged accident-free hours, saving the developer $118,000.

Pre-employment screening can prevent accidents from happening

CHICAGO — Worker's-compensation claims have skyrocketed more than 70 percent in the past two decades in the United States, with more than 70,000 new cases filed each year.

Evidence now shows that paper and pencil pre-employment tests can accurately predict workers' on-the-job safety behavior, according to Reid Psychological Systems. Reid, which specializes in pre-employment screening and information programs, has developed a test called the Reid Safety Scale which identifies applicants who demonstrate adherence to safety policies and a sense of control in the work environment.

With the rise in worker's-comp claims and falsification of injuries, employers must be more selective in hiring or face increases in insurance premiums, not to mention thousands of dollars in compensation fees, Reid said.

The company reported that employees who were not recommended on the Reid Safety Scale had a 60-percent greater rate of injuries or accidents on the job than those who were recommended. Poor performers on the Reid Safety Scale missed twice as many work days per year than those who earned the Recommended evaluation. Careless employees who cause injuries to themselves cost companies millions of dollars each year.

Nearly four times as many employees who were not recommended by the Reid Safety Scale had disciplinary warnings for violating company safety rules and regulations (19.35 vs. 5.26 percent) compared to those who were recommended.

Employees who were not recommended also missed twice as many work days per year compared to those who were recommended on the test (6.36 vs. 3.24 lost days per employee per year).

"In the past decade, the cost of a serious worker's compensation injury has risen more than 300 percent in lost wages and over 400 percent in medical costs. The costs continue to rise," said Stephen Coffman, president of Reid Psychological Systems. "Employers can save thousands of dollars each year by making well-researched hiring decisions."

Golf cart paths can be accidents in waiting

By MICHAEL J. HURDZAN

Golf cars and their roadways can be major sources of liability for golf course operators, car manufacturers, golf course designers and maintenance personnel. The legal premise being that golf car users are entitled to a reasonable and prudent degree of safety, and are due fair warning of any foreseeable danger or deficiency.

Failure to properly design, construct and maintain golf cars or roadways could lead to a negligence lawsuit if they contribute to an accident that results in an injury or economic loss. For that reason I do not design golf car roadways and that is clearly stated in my contract, because in the eyes of most courts, I may not be able to establish a suitable professional credential for doing that work. Allow me to explain.

They are not golf carts, they are golf cars and the folks who make them belong to the Golf Car Manufacturers Association. In some states a golf car carries with it the same dangerous instrumentality as does an automobile, and if they cross public streets they may be required certain safety devices and/or are individually licensed like an automobile. So they are cars and cars do not run on the paths, they run on roadways and roadway design is usually governed by a set of local regulations for slopes, turn radii, signage and traffic controls. Since I do not have knowledge of those local regulations and I am not trained, experienced or qualified to design roadways, I defer the technical portion of them to a civil engineer who does. This may include recommendations for guardrails, speed bumps, paint markings, sight lines, warning symbols, signage or other appropriate devices.

This may sound a little silly until you are a witness in a court of law involving a golf car or roadway, and you are asked:

1. How many degrees do you have in civil engineering?
Safety on site

Continued from page 1

accidents mostly occur, is more dangerous than golf course construction. But that can cause golf course builders to think they are less responsible for safety on site. "Heavy-highway contractors are generally a lot more safety-program oriented than our industry," said Buell. "If anything, the golf course industry is more lax than heavy construction. One reason, I think, is probably the remoteness of our job locations. We're not as visible as those working on a city street and don't see a lot of people, and we have less potential for city or state inspectors...."

Nevertheless, with companies wanting to retain good workers and with insurance rates determined by a company's safety record, builders are taking more and more safety precautions than in the past. They are also taking advantage of new safety devices that are coming on the market.

Training alone can prevent many accidents from happening, said Bill Bord, safety director for the Associated General Contractors of America of New York. "The Labor Bureau of Statistics showed a decrease in overall accident rate for about 10 percent from 1995 to 1996 across the country," Bord said. "That's because of one of two causes: Lack of work, which I don't believe is true, or more and good training. I'd like to think that's the reason."

Joe Niebur, president of course builder Niebur Golf in Colorado Springs, Colo., agreed. "We really work on educating our superintendents," Niebur said. "We've greatly reduced accidents, and the main thing is weeklies [weekly meetings]. We talk about problems from the last week and what we need to worry about the coming week. We have a general meeting every year with supers where safety is a main topic. Also, if something happens, everyone hears about it and everybody learns from mistakes. If you don't talk about it, people get real lax."

According to national figures, most accidents occur in an employee's first 30 days of employment with the company, Buell said. "It's a strange environment, different types of workers, and the person is unfamiliar with the operators and, sometimes, the equipment...."

"I make the point very important to our people, not only to new hires but supers and foremen, and they stress where the accidents occur, what to do and why."

"There's a big difference in accidents when a crew is trained," Bord said. "I go back 10 years ago. In most of the companies I'm dealing with now, there has been a 60-percent reduction — maybe more — in OSHA [Occupational Safety and Health Administration] fines, worker's comp and overall accidents."

"Results are similar in other states."

"The major safety concerns in construction are vehicles backing up, excavation and trenching, personal protective equipment, hearing loss, and discovering what is underground before digging," said Bord.

• Backup alarms, according to Bord and Buell, are a double-edged sword. "I won't criticize backup alarms," said Bord. "But when you're on a large project and several pieces of equipment are beeping all the time, you become oblivious to them. Our industry has people hurt and killed quite often by having people run over by big equipment. That comes down to awareness on the laborer's part as well as the operator's. More so the employee because the operator can't always see."

Buell noted that not all equipment is alerted. "It's optional for a skid-loader, for instance," he said, "and for rubber-tired backhoes."

• Trenching without proper protection led to three deaths from cave-ins in New York alone on heavy-highway projects last year, according to Bord. Golf course builders often do not use trench boxes, but that is changing, Buell said.

While explaining that the golf industry doesn't use trench boxes as often because it works in more wide-open spaces and can usually cut earth back to a 3-1 slope, Buell added that many higher-end courses today are requiring more drainage, more elaborate shaping and deep bunkers.

If the trench has to go from a deep bunker through a high mound, it can be deep and dangerous, he said. "Your choice is using trench boxes or laying back the slopes.... Shoring becomes necessary when a trench curves...."

• Personal protective equipment is another concern, Bord said. "Are they wearing their hard hat, for instance," he said, "and for rubber-tired backhoes?"

"They are wearing their hard hat when they have to, or their safety glasses, gloves and work shoes. We're concerned over worker's compensation as well as OSHA. Ear protection is extremely important because of worker's comp.... With proper training, workers respond very well. Most will wear foam roll-in ear plugs."

"The guys almost without exception are really good about using ear protection..."
FOPS are not mandatory at this point.
• "The biggest advancement in
  trench safety is the improvement
  in operator's visibility," Buell said.
  "An extremely high number of people
  who had accidents show positive on
  substance abuse. A lot has to do with
  location — where you get employ-
  ees. If you're in a metropolitan
  area it's a lot more difficult to con-
  trol substance abuse than in the
  Adirondacks, for instance."

"We're adamant about our
  drug policy," said Landscapes'
  Buell. "We post signs at our job
  sites saying we do random drug
  testing. That often deters local
  applicants who are on drugs...
  "Our employees have enough
  to worry about. It's our obliga-
  tion to control whatever we can.
  Guys don't want to be working on
  a site with someone on drugs.
  They can put your life in jeop-
  ardy."

Still, communication to employ-
  ees about safety can be the single
  major deterrent to accidents.
  "I send our supervisors quite
  a bit of information as I see it in
  publications," Buell said. "The
  more grotesque thing you can
  send, the more effective it is.
  "John Deere posted signs
  showing a relatively young man
  in a wheelchair pushed by his
  wife and with child at the side. It
  reads: 'Do you want to be pushed
  around the rest of your life? It
  strikes real close to home.'

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Safer Options for the Future

• In many places, hard hats
  and ear plugs are new additions
  to work sites.

Another sign of the times is
random drug testing.

"If a person is involved in sub-
stance abuse, it is a proven fact
they are more prone to acci-
dents," said Bord. "An extremely
high number of people who had
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GOLF COURSE NEWS
Safety gear unveiled

MT. HOEB, Wis. — Gempler's now offers a complete line of hard-to-find, head-to-toe safety gear for professional and hobby chain saw operators (see photo, page 1).

Using the latest in technology, the company's protective clothing prevents injuries from saw kick back, slips, and flying debris. Leg chaps, vests, and hand mitts are made of a special material that resists cuts from chains moving at speeds up to 3,000 feet per minute and explodes on contact with running chains to jam the saw sprocket and stop chain movement.

To prevent head and face injuries, hobbyists and professionals alike can use Gempler's head protectors with a mesh face shield to screen out flying debris. The head protectors come with high-rated, noise-reducing earmuffs to prevent hearing loss and optional hard hats that give overhead protection from falling branches and trees.

For more information, contact Gempler's, Inc., P.O. Box 270, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572; phone 800-382-8473; Fax: 800-551-1128.

Incentives lower insurance

Continued from page 31

Worker's comp

Continued from page 31

On the second phase, a hotel, first prize was a little less, a fishing boat and jet skis.

Meanwhile, Landscapes Unlimited's incentive program has also reaped benefits.

"Our program is multifaceted," Buell said.

Each job site does a weekly "toolbox meeting," with a variety of topics relevant to the phase of the job the crew is in. All the employees sign off on a sheet describing the topic. If they do not suffer a lost-time accident — more than three days lost to injury — during the first quarter of the year, they qualify for a small safety award like a sweatshirt. Leeway is given for such things as back strains and dust in the eyes.

The same qualification applies to the second quarter, but the award value increases to items like shirts and jackets. By the fourth quarter, the firm generally gives away cash prizes that it delivers personally to the employees.

"By the end of the fourth quarter we have 300 people getting the safety award," Buell said.

"We give the same awards to the office personnel, and everything has our logo on it, to instill company pride and get our name out."

Incentives lower insurance

"Accidents are a real worry for me. They can shut you down."

— Joe Niebur, president Niebur Golf

For more information, contact Gempler's, Inc., P.O. Box 270, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572; phone 800-382-8473; Fax: 800-551-1128.

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Worker's comp

Continued from page 31

Worker's-comp cases are typically settled out of court, but usually two years after the claims are filed. According to the Illinois Industrial Commission's 1994 annual report, a standard, minimal-injury claim can cost approximately $5,000 in medical bills, benefits and settlement costs, plus an average of two to four weeks of sick time.

Pre-employment testing helps control these risks before applicants are hired. The Reid Safety Scale, for example, is tailored to screen for potentially careless employees who coat employers money in claims. Ultimately, this type of screening tool could save employers millions of dollars in wages, loss of productivity, medical expenses, and legal fees.

For more information, contact Gary W. Koebe at Reid Psychological Systems, 800-922-7343.
OB APPOINTS GREENWOOD TO SI REED

AURORA, Ore. — OB Sports has appointed Bret Greenwood project manager for the 45-hole golf facility at Si Redd's Oasis Resort Hotel and Casino in Mesquite, Nevada. Greenwood succeeds Van Batchelder who was initially assigned to coordinate the transition of OB Sports management which began in March 1997. Greenwood will assume ongoing day-to-day management of the golf facilities. For the past three years, Greenwood directed all activities at Gold Canyon Resort & Golf Club in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

TROON CREATES FOUR NEW POSITIONS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Troon Golf, a development and management company, has announced the promotion of four of its key managers into newly created positions to manage the company's restructured golf facilities. The move is part of the company's strategy to restructure in preparation for its anticipated rapid growth during the next few months. The four newly named and their respective areas include: Paul Stringer (Southern California, Arizona and Las Vegas); Jack Elliott (Central and Northern Arizona); Mark Kizzire (Colorado and Texas) and Jay Overton (East Coast). Collectively, the group provides Troon Golf with more than 80 years of golf experience.

NATIONAL GOLF LANDS EAGLE BROOK

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — National Golf Properties Inc. has acquired Eagle Brook Country Club in Geneva, Ill., a western suburb of Chicago. Eagle Brook is a private country club featuring an 18-hole golf course designed by Roger Packard and Andy North and a new clubhouse with a pro shop, grill room, banquet facilities and meeting rooms. Eagle Brook will be leased to American Golf Corp., which operates more than 250 golf courses throughout the United States and the United Kingdom. Pursuant to a triple net lease, National Golf Properties will receive minimum and annual base rent equal to 9.75 percent of its investment in Eagle Brook.

GRAYHAWK PROMOTES HEPBURN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Tiffany Hepburn has been named director of operations for Grayhawk Golf Club's Kostis McCord Learning Center. As Director of Operations, Hepburn will handle the day-to-day operations, budgeting and marketing for the Learning Center as well as coordinate the Center's three-day golf schools, half-day workshops and private playing lessons.

The 15th at Highland Links rolls down toward the cool waters of the 580-acre links on the 14th tee in the golf course routed around Sand, Bottle and Beaver lakes — the Maritimes.

GRAHAM COOKE CORNERS MARITIMES

HALIFAX, N.S., Canada — With four new course projects in various stages of construction, a high-profile renovation in the books and a club management contract in the offing, Graham Cooke & Associates has single-handedly created critical mass here in the Canadian Maritimes.

"I much enjoy the Maritimes," said Cooke, whose design firm is based in Montreal. "The economy has perked up recently, and the provinces understand this is a way to establish a [tourism] connection with New England and other parts of Canada. I suppose I was in a good position because it's really taken off."

Fresh off his restoration of Stanley Thompson's Highland Links in Ingonish Beach, Cape Breton, Cooke and his colleagues will open Osprey Ridge Golf Club in Bridgewater, N.S., next spring. While construction continues on separate 18-hole projects in Inverness, Cape Breton, and Fox Harbour, N.S., the firm will try its hand at club management when Glen Arbour Golf Club opens for play here in spring 1999.

"This will be our first management venture," said Cooke. "We'll go on a contract basis with good people who have golf knowledge of the Maritimes. Our first review will include people involved in the golf course industry, people with suitable experience running something as recreational as Glen Arbour.”

Cooke said his firm will hire a club manager for Glen Arbour "sometime next year," during which time the clubhouse will be built and the course — 6,710 yards of rollicking golf — will fully mature.

An ambitious 500-acre project, Glen Arbour is the first integrated residential golf project in the Maritimes. Annapolis Basin Group, Inc., a first-time golf developer, has planned some 200 National Fairways, RDC joint venture picks up Forsgate CC

GREENWICH, Conn. — Forsgate Golf LLC, a joint venture between National Fairways Inc. of Greenwich, Conn., and RDC Golf of Parsippany, N.J., has purchased Forsgate Country Club (CC), a private 36-hole club in Jamesburg, N.J. Forsgate CC, situated midway between New York and Philadelphia on exit 8A of the New Jersey Turnpike, is a private country club offering 36 holes of golf along with a 23,000-square-foot clubhouse.

National Fairways will manage the day-to-day operations of Forsgate CC. RDC's food and beverage experience will play a major role in the club's operations. The Forsgate acquisition gives National Fairways 19 courses with an additional two under development.

"The Forsgate purchase is part of a proactive plan to increase the number of golf courses in the National Fairways fold to 50 over the next several years," said Marc Bergschneider, founder and chief executive officer of National Fairways in a prepared statement. "We are focusing on the Northeast because we believe it's more efficient and cost effective to stay close to home. We also see numerous development opportunities here because the Northeast is not yet overdeveloped like parts of the Southeast."

RDC plans to add three to five golf facilities per year on the East Coast.

Capitol Golf takes Jones Creek

By PETER BLAIS

BETHESDA, Md. — Capitol Golf Group, a Maryland-based course acquisition and management firm, has purchased Jones Creek Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., and plans additional acquisitions in the coming years, according to Director of Operations David Allen.

Jones Creek is an 18-hole, Rees Jones-designed layout that opened in 1985 as the centerpiece of the 520-acre master-planned community of Jones Creek. The semi-private, 400-member facility has been ranked among the top courses in Georgia and the Southeast.

The company hopes to acquire additional daily-fee and semi-private clubs in the Eastern United States, particularly the Southeast.

"The Southeast has a longer playing season and a good mix of metropolitan and resort areas," Allen said. "We have a familiarity with the people in that region."

Allen said Capitol Golf has no numerical goals in terms of course purchases. The firm has the financial resources to purchase one or several facilities at a time if they fit the company's growth plans and then operate them through Capitol Golf Services, the company's management arm.

What differentiates Capitol from other management firms? "We..."
The Confidential Guide to Golf Courses
By Tom Doak

The Confidential Guide to Golf Courses is written in an informal, easy-to-understand format. It is the most comprehensive guide to golf courses worldwide, with more than 100 color photographs and brief reviews of all of the major golf courses that occur in both warm- and cool-season regions. It is an indispensable resource for golf course superintendents and other industry professionals. The book starts with a "Gourmet's Choice" selection of 23 personal favorites, each by a different architect, followed by brief reviews of courses from Pebble Beach, Calif., to Kaba, Maine, and from St. Andrews, Scotland, to Joondalup, Western Australia.

$45.00, 400 pages, hardcover.

Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases
By Dr. Yoshikazu Tan

Color Atlas of Turfgrass Diseases presents more than 450 high-quality color photographs of all the major turfgrass diseases that occur on both warm- and cool-season grasses. It is an indispensable resource for golf course superintendents and turfgrass professionals. The book is loaded with vintage photographs and original Tillie sketches of such of Doak's personal favorites, which might be the best collection of worldwide photographs ever published. It begins with a "Gourmet's Choice" selection of 23 personal favorites, each by a different architect, followed by brief reviews of courses from Pebble Beach, Calif., to Kaba, Maine, and from St. Andrews, Scotland, to Joondalup, Western Australia.

$79.95, Approx. 250 pages, hardcover.

Human Resource Management for Golf Course Superintendents
By Robert Milligan and Tom Maloney

This practical guide provides basic management principles and techniques which view people as the most important asset in course management. Five basic management functions are detailed throughout the book, using everyday situations to illustrate the key points. Designed to serve as a quick reference, or as a self-teaching guide, Human Resource Management for Golf Course Superintendents features numerous technical and practical examples. Every aspect of management is covered, from selection and communication skills, maximizing employee performance, to communication skills, maximizing employee performance, to management of labor and capital, and employee performance evaluations. Use of the methods and principles presented in this book will ensure the effective management and operation of any golf facility.

$34.95, 150 pages, hardcover.

NPG acquires 50% of Pumpkin Ridge
SANTA MONICA, Calif. — National Golf Properties (NGP) Inc. has acquired a 50-percent interest in Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club in suburban Portland, Ore.

Pumpkin Ridge features two 18-hole courses designed by architect Bob Cupp. Ghost Creek, a daily-fee course, earned Golf Digest's best new public course in the United States, and Witch Hollow, a private course, was named second-best new private course in the United States by Golf Digest.


Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club will be leased to American Golf Corp. Pursuant to a triple net lease, NGP will receive minimum annual base rent equal to 9.75 percent of its investment in Pumpkin Ridge. The minimum base rent will be adjusted in specified years based upon increases in the CPI. In addition, a percentage rent feature will allow NGP to participate in growth in revenues at Pumpkin Ridge.

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OB secures $59 million, looks ahead
PORTLAND, Ore. — OB Sports has secured $59.5 million of financing to solidify its financial position and pursue additional projects to add to its current six-course portfolio.

The Portland-based firm's goal is to develop OB courses in each of the major metropolitan markets on the West Coast, according to an OB Sports release. The courses will be referred to collectively as the OB Sports Golf Trail.

The financial package includes $43.5 million in growth capital obtained from Pacific Life Insurance Co. along with $16 million of growth capital obtained from Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group. Other investors included Piper Jaffray Inc. and the investment banking company which assisted OB Sports in this financial transaction.

"Its encouraging that both of these groups (Pacific Life and RSTW) took the time necessary to understand the unique qualities and philosophies of our company," said Tom Wilson, managing partner of RSTW. "This will greatly enhance our ongoing relations; plus, they have each expressed a long-term intention to expand the investment relationship."

"We’ve analyzed several golf investments over the past year," said Jim Wilson, managing partner of RSTW. "And we believe the OB Sports Management team is one of the most experienced and innovative groups in the industry. The OB Sports ‘turnkey’ operation with design, construction, and management capability provide the company with a competitive advantage. We believe OB Sports has targeted attractive markets and is poised for significant growth."

OB Sports President Orrin Vincent said OB Sports has developed numerous golf projects in the Western United States. "I have always had a dream for OB Sports to grow to a point where we have at least one facility in each of the major metropolitan markets on the West Coast. The OB Sports Golf Trail," Vincent said, "is a dream come true. We can only look forward to the future with great excitement."
AGCC enhances its Advantage plan

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — American Golf Country Clubs (AGCC), a division of American Golf Corp. (AGC), has announced an enhancement to its Member Advantage Plan — The Assessment-Free Advantage.

This value-added program allows members of all AGCC country clubs to enjoy a unique private club experience without incurring direct assessment charges for improvements and/or operating losses.

Although AGCC has maintained a policy of assuming responsibility for capital expenditures and losses related to club operations, the no-assessment guarantee has now been officially added to AGCC’s exclusive Member Advantage Plan.

“Many golf course and clubhouse renovations are made each year at AGCC private clubs without assessing members for the cost of these improvements,” said American Golf Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer David Price. “We feel it is important to give our members the peace of mind of knowing that they’ll never be surprised with a costly assessment bill.”

As part of the AGCC family of private country clubs, members also have 60-day advanced tee times with complimentary guest fees at more than 220 private, resort and daily-fee courses in the United States and United Kingdom. Other member advantages include the ability to transfer memberships to over 55 private clubs nationwide; preferred pricing on pro shop merchandise; and a national member tournament.

AGC to manage Long Island Nat.

PARADISE VILLAGE, Ariz. — American Golf Corp. has been awarded the contract to manage the new Long Island National Golf Course. The 18-hole championship property, located in Riverhead, Long Island, is scheduled to open during Spring of 1999.

The challenge of transforming a sod farm into Long Island’s premier daily-fee golf course falls to designer Robert Trent Jones Jr., who was on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 10.

The project holds special meaning for Robert Trent Jones Jr., who grew up in New York. His par 71, 6,800-yard design features tree-lined and lake holes, dramatic elevation changes, two double greens and a double fairway, and some 40 sand and grass bunkers.

“Long Island National will have the feel of the great private clubs in South Hampton, such as Shinnecock Hills and National Golf Links,” said Mark Tansy, American Golf’s regional marketing and sales director.

Adding to the experience will be a host of amenities — like a clubhouse with a wrap-around porch overlooking the 18th green, grass tee driving range, tournament area, and top-line pro shop.

Granite signs two, continues on acquisition roll

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Granite Golf Group Inc. has signed management agreements with two courses; Burning Tree Country Club in Decatur, Ala., and Porter’s Neck Plantation & CC in Wilmington, N.C. Burning Tree is a private, member-owned, 18-hole championship course designed by George Cobb and is host of the Spirit of America Golf Classic annually. Porter’s Neck is a semi-private equity club designed by Tom Fazio that ranks in the top fifteen in North Carolina.

On the acquisition side, Granite has entered into purchase agreements with four courses; (1) in North Carolina, (2) in Kansas, and (2) in Florida. The company said that it continues to focus on quality public-access golf facilities.

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he asked for an exemption from the rule. A once-a-week player with a 16 handicap, he explained that his disability would not allow him to leave the cart and walk up to 60 yards on sometimes hilly terrain. The course refused his request because of what it considered tender turf and suggested he play at the other municipal course 11 miles away.

Duckworth went before the Boone County authorities, who likewise refused his request. Golfer and golf course dug in their heels.

Duckworth contacted Greg Jones, founder and president of The Association of Disabled American Golfers. A polio victim at age three, Jones became an avid golfer despite being limited to crutches and in 1992 formed the organization. Today it has more than 700 members, including most major golf industry organizations.

"I told him," said Jones, "Don't just sit there. Seek advice and you don't need to pay an attorney." Jones told him he had protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA.) He suggested Duckworth file a grievance with the Department of Justice.

After his request was refused in an exchange of letters to county authorities, Duckworth went before them personally and got no satisfaction, so he filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice in April 1996. Justice referred the matter to the Department of the Interior, which is the designated investigating agency under Title 5 of (ADA.)

The matter was handled by Jack Andre, equal opportunity specialist for the National Park Service.

"The act requires that all state and local programs be available to people with disabilities," reported Andre, "unless providing access would cause an undue burden, like financial, or alter the nature of the program. In this case the game of golf.

Andre communicated with the county, which held that based upon advice from the USGA and the course architect, the tender turf (three years after completion) could be damaged by carts deviating from the path. Andre went to the course for an on-site inspection. As Duckworth only golfed once a week, Andre argued, how much damage could his cart do, especially in light of daily tractor, mower and utility cart traffic. The county responded that its other course would allow Duckworth to deviate from the path.

"We found," said Andre, "that each course is unique. That's why people play golf. Along with this Mr. Duckworth was playing in a league at Lassing Pointe." He ruled that the course would "...allow the man to play golf."鸭

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**DowElanco to become Dow AgroSciences**

INDIANAPOLIS — Effective January 1, 1998, DowElanco will be known as Dow AgroSciences, a move the company said reflects the venture’s new status as a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company.

The name change follows a June announcement by The Dow Chemical Co. that it would acquire Eli Lilly and Co.’s 54 percent interest in the joint venture — the two companies joined their plant science businesses to form DowElanco in 1989.

“This is an industry that is rapidly reinventing itself,” said John Hagaman, DowElanco president and chief executive officer. “Our new name reflects a broad sense of our mission that has been inherent in our strategic planning for a number of years. As a result, our company’s investment in technologies of the future is funded and supported by traditional pest control products, so that both our older and newer businesses provide a platform for growth.”

The company said it will stick to its goal of commercializing one significant new product a year. The latest for the turf industry was Conserve SC, a turf and ornamental insect control.

**ICM, UHS firm deal in Fla.**

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — ICM Vigoro announced a new business alliance with UHS of Tampa, Fla., to represent ICM Vigoro’s turf fertilizer products throughout the state of Florida.

The alliance calls for UHS to market and sell Par ex fertilizers, containing IBDU slow release nitrogen and V-Cote controlled release nitrogen and potash to golf course superintendents and lawn care/landscape companies.

Steve Jackson, Gulf states division manager for UHS, will head up the UHS sales team.

“We are very excited about distributing for ICM Vigoro. The Par ex brand has already established an excellent reputation and we intend to grow the business,” said Jackson.

UHS, which has six sales offices in Florida (Delray Beach, Ft. Pierce, Immokalee, Parrish, and Waverly), markets to the golf course and lawn care/landscape turf care industries.

“UHS brings over 5 1/2 years of industry experience to our sales force,” said Bill Foster, director of the professional business unit at ICM Vigoro. “The alliance will strengthen our distribution capabilities in Florida.”

**RohMid’s Mach 2 granted registration in 35 states**

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — RohMid L.L., the joint venture of Rohm and Haas Co. and American Cyanamid Co., have announced that Mach 2, the venture’s product that controls grubs and caterpillars, has been granted registration by state regulatory agencies in 35 states.

A liquid formulation of Mach 2 will be available for use on golf courses and sod farms during the 1998 use season.

The states that granted registration include: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

**Novartis grants exclusive rights**

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Novartis has recently granted Ames, Iowa-based Becker Underwood Inc. exclusive product and marketing rights for Sprint 330 and Sprint 138. Both products are iron chelates used to correct soil or foliar iron deficiencies. Sprint is used worldwide in the turf & ornamental, specialty, golf and horticulture markets.

“We’re extremely proud that Novartis has the confidence in our company to turn Sprint over to us,” said Roger Underwood, president of Becker Underwood.
Mid-Atlantic dips into growing Va. market

COLLEGEVILLE, Pa. — Mid-Atlantic Equipment Corp., a full-service distributor of E-Z-GO and Yamaha golf cars, opened a new service facility in the Richmond, Va., area. The new location will provide golf car parts and service for Mid-Atlantic's growing base of customers in the area.

The 3,500-square-foot leased facility, located in nearby Ashland, Va., is staffed by four service technicians and a service manager. The new location will draw its parts from Mid-Atlantic’s $1.5 million inventory of OEM and non-OEM parts at the company’s central warehousing center in Collegeville, Pa.

According to Joseph Kelly, Jr., president of Mid-Atlantic, the company is adding the service location in response to several positive market trends. “The Richmond corridor is experiencing an upsurge in the development of new golf courses as the sport continues to increase in popularity,” he said.

Ransomes lands deal with Bougainvillea

A n exclusive contract to supply Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan turf equipment to a new golf course development in southern China was won by Ransomes’ appointed area distributor, Lindeteves-Jacoberg (China) Ltd.

The Bougainvillea Golf Club placed the order for grass and turf-care equipment worth £230,000 (HK$3.3 million). “Two years ago, with Ransomes’ support, we set out to establish a western-style dedicated service center on the Chinese mainland,” said Stuart Hitchcock, senior Manager with Lindeteves-Jacoberg (China) Ltd. The facility, which includes a mobile service support team and parts delivery service to customers, had introduced a totally new level of product support and after-sales service to southern China, demonstrating our dedication and commitment to customer satisfaction.”

Toro, Pinehurst

Continued from page 1

maintenance and irrigation equipment for Pinehurst No. 2 during the 1999 U.S. Open as well as Pinehurst’s seven other courses. Deals of this exclusive nature are quickly becoming the norm for organizations that are managing five or more courses (see GCN Sept. ’97). In the past few months, both Toro and Ransomes America Corp. have added substantial new agreements to their growing list of exclusive arrangements.

Toro recently cut a five-year deal with Whitbread/Marriott Hotels to be exclusive provider of turf equipment and maintenance for Whitbread’s eight existing courses and two currently in development. Ransomes will be the exclusive manufacturer and maintainer for the eight courses under the watchful eye of Myrtle Beach National Co.

Toro already has agreements on the books with Canadian Pacific Hotel Group and Valderrama, the home of this year’s Ryder Cup matches. For Ransomes, Myrtle Beach is its fifth contract.

According to Toro, the arrangement with Pinehurst is the result of a long history between the two companies as well as Smith Turf and Irrigation, the Toro distributor that has been handling the Pinehurst account.

Johnson’s names Nee to sales force

MILWAUKEE — Howard Johnson’s Enterprises Inc. announces the addition of Alan Nee as national sales manager. Nee adds a considerable knowledge of the fertilizer and lawn care industries, most recently as the director of marketing for the Milorganite Division of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District. “With Al’s degree in Agronomy, an emphasis in Turfgrass Management, and 23 years of experience in the industry, we anticipate an immediate impact in our market penetration,” said Dave Scott, Howard Johnson’s vice president of sales and marketing.
NEW PRODUCTS

The Octa-Flex containment pad system in action

Octa-Flex offers containment

Containment has been defined as a device that directs the flow of toxic matter to be contained for disposal or reused in the proper manner. Octa-Flex manufactures a patented area containment pad system composed of impervious composite materials, that provides environmental protection at a reasonable cost without becoming hazardous waste itself.

The system is ideal for ground or aerial applicators on golf courses. Backed by research and development, the Octa-Flex has a containment system for virtually every need. For more information contact Octa-Flex at 800-768-3316.

DTN releases additional service

Data Transmission Network Corp. has released an addition to its Weather Center family, DTN Forestry Center. Fire weather maps, forecasts, notices and Red Flag Warnings provide 24-hour assistance in predicting, monitoring, and managing potential situations for the U.S. Forest Service and other parks and recreation areas.

DTN Forestry Center includes complete satellite and radar information as well as synoptic weather charts. The package provides: humidity forecasts; current and forecast wind speeds; Palmer Drought Index; Haines Fire Index; and WIMS NIFC Reports which covers fire activity nationally and regionally followed by outbreaks of fire-fighting efforts.

The Forestry Greenness report provides a high-resolution satellite-generated color image depicting vegetation moisture content and changes in moisture content over the previous month and year. For more information, contact DTN at 402-390-2328.

TMI launches new tall fescue

TMI has just completed the harvest of Millennium, its first fourth-generation turf-type tall fescue. In addition, TMI has released Paragon, a new perennial ryegrass seed also from the 1997 harvest. Both varieties were developed at Rutgers University.

Millennium is an advanced generation synthetic variety that is moderately low-growing with a rich, dark green color, medium-fine leaves and medium density. Tested and evaluated as TMI-RBR in the 1996 National Tall Fescue Evaluation Program, Millennium shows higher density, better net blotch resistance and better summer performance than many current top-ranked varieties.

Limited quantities of Millennium are available this Fall; full production will be realized in 1998, coinciding with the release of data from the new tall fescue NTEP trials.

For more information contact TMI at 503-227-5547.

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WinterGreen Protection

WinterGreen Turf Covers reduce the stress of winter weather.

For more information about WinterGreen Protective Covers, contact your nearest CONTECH Green Industry Products Dealer. Or call toll free: 1-800-338-1122.
Scotts to introduce Kansel preemergent

The Scotts Co. is introducing a new proprietary combination weed control and fertilizer with both Pendimethalin and Ronstar. The company said that its new Kansel+ gives turf managers preemergent control of crabgrass, Poa annua, goosegrass, and other annual grassy and broadleaf weeds, plus extended feeding with Scotts' methylene urea fertilizer.

Kansel+ features small-particle technology for consistent, uniform control and feeding. Scotts' methylene urea fertilizer provides efficient nitrogen delivery for immediate green-up and significantly longer feeding than other dual-preemergent fertilizer products.

Kansel+ can be ordered for the 1998 season. It is also available as part of a Scotts Custom Application Service. Scotts offers a complete line of fertilizer, weed control, and disease control products for the turf market. For more information contact Scotts at 1-800-543-0006.

Taylor-Dunn adds 1600

Taylor-Dunn Manufacturing Co. has introduced a larger version of its MX-600 Maintenance Expediters that carries two maintenance personnel. Designated the MX-1600, the new Expediters represents an expansion of Taylor-Dunn’s line of electric-powered, zero-emission vehicles. For more information contact 310-393-0622.

CIRCLE #205

SAFETY BY DESIGN

Cart-path accidents

Continued from page 31

2. How many scholarly papers or books have you written on the subject?
3. What sort of certification or re-certification training have you had on roadway design?
4. What qualified you to design, build or maintain golf car roadways involved in this accident?

After you answer “none” or “nothing” to those questions, how would you think a judge and/or jury might rule in this case?

But even if the golf car roadway is properly built, there is the question about who decided to place the roadway, why there, and what were those person’s qualifications?

For instance, let us suppose someone is riding along on the golf car roadway, obeying all of the rules of the road, and “smash”—they are struck in the face with a golf ball. The question will be if this roadway was prudently planned, safely placed, and adequately protected to have avoided such an accident. Chances are the plaintiff’s attorney will find an expert that says it was unsafe, and you or your golf course must defend and convince a court that it was.

I would agree that the golf course architect’s knowledge could be more important than a civil engineer in determining where to place the roadways to best service possible play patterns, but will the architect be willing to accept that risk alone?

We at Hurdzan/Fry will work with the engineers to find a suitable roadway location, paying particular attention to sight lines and lighting as well as the land-usage and environmental impact.

Continued on next page

Cooke & Assoc.

Continued from page 35

housing lots of at least an acre apiece. Annapolis’ newcomer status helps explain Cooke’s foray into club management.

“The developer is new to the idea of golf—that’s part of the reason they wanted me to help in creating the course and its tourist play, tournament and how the course will be used by those purchasing homes in the development.

“I’m not worried about the course itself. Considering the power of the land, it will be known as one of the best in Canada.”

In Bridgewater, an hour south of Halifax, Cooke’s Osprey Ridge design is only slightly less spectacular. Huge elevation changes highlight this 6,675-yard layout, built by Atlantic Golf Construction of Fredericton, N.B.

Atlantic finished its work early in 1997, allowing the high-end municipal course to be seeded well in advance of the winter months—good news for Osprey Ridge which, like Glen Arbour, features bentgrass wall to wall.

Two hours north of Halifax, Cooke has broken ground on another high-end course beside the Northumberland Straits, the body of water that separates Nova Scotia from Prince Edward Island.

This exclusive 18-hole private facility is being developed in scenic Fox Harbour by Ron Joyce, founder of the Tim Hortons restaurant chain.
lines and play patterns, but we will not dictate it. Either the engineers or management will have final approval on roadway location.

But all is not gloom and doom, if one recognizes the potential problem and takes adequate precautions. First, golf car roadways should not exceed local engineering and safety standards for automobile roadways particularly for slopes, sight lines and turning radius.

Second, place the pathways along the right side of a hole if possible, but never in a position that subjects the golf car to a face-on ball strike. Make sure roadways are adequately wide (8' or more is preferred) and/or the edges have either a curb or run-out room.

Provide traffic controls and warnings — you will never be sued for providing too many. Pay particular attention to bridge approaches and steep grades. Make sure roadways are inspected daily for safety, especially after storms. Properly texture roadway surfaces for maximum tire grip.

Provide golf cars that have been certified by the manufacturer as being able to safely negotiate all roadways or expected travel areas. Include all possible safety devices on golf cars to include warning signs, hand holds, windshieldshields, all weather tires, warning signals, etc. Inspect and maintain golf cars daily, keeping records of repairs particularly dealing with tires, brakes, steering and safety devices.

Only rent to drivers with a valid automobile driver’s license. Ask if the driver has ever driven a golf car before, and if not give them a safety orientation. Enforce all rules. Discourage alcohol consumption by golf car drivers. Have good insurance and use lots of common sense.

can’t over emphasize the importance of the golf car running surfaces and tires. Old or worn tires may not provide suitable grip for wet surfaces, turf, or fallen leaves.

Again, common sense and vigilance are key, although even then one can not feel too secure. For example, I heard of a case where a player thought the rain was so brief that no damage would be caused by play, so he told the golf pro to open the course.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Shapers needed. Experience with heavy earth moving essential. Willing to travel, U.S. and North East Asia. Send resume to: Intergolf, P.O. Box 209, Dolan's Ferry, NY 10522. Tel: 914-693-2024, Fax: 914-693-9506.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Growing regional golf course construction company based in the Midwest is seeking a highly motivated individual to lead our national expansion efforts. Position requires extensive experience encompassing all phases of construction and project management. The ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously is essential. For confidential consideration, please forward your resume including a cover letter outlining your goals, salary history, and availability: Operations Manager, Golf Creations, 18250 Beck Road, Marengo, IL 60152.

WANTED GREENS SUPERINTENDENT

Boonville Country Club in Boonville, IN is seeking a Greens Superintendent. Forward resume to: Max Nance, Boonville Country Club, P.O. Box 211, Boonville, IN 47601; Phone (812) 897-1370.

CONSTRUCTION

Shapers needed in Asia. Min. 5 yrs. experience. Send resume with references to World Golf Group, 9 Music Square S. #277, Nashville, TN 37203; or Fax: (615)321-0384.

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Golf Course Construction. Shapers Needed. Must be willing to travel. Fax resume and date available to 616-547-7009.

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The ICS IrriLink Network offers excellent service a plus. Will train qualified applicant. Send resume to: Golf Course Irrigation Services, Att: Operations Manager, P.O. Box 156, Olive Branch, MS 38654-0156.

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FROM THE COVER

Stormwater runoff

Continued from page 1

Commissioners were created in part to help pay the costs of capital improvements to the county's stormwater system. But many courses began receiving annual stormwater bills that increased anywhere from seven to 20 times. Foxfire Golf Club, a privately-owned 27-hole daily-fee facility, paid $5,466 in assessments in 1993 but saw its bill jump to $37,840 in 1995. Municipal golf courses are exempt from the assessments.

The Suncoast Golf Courses Association recently won a concession from the county in the ongoing struggle. The county agreed to reduce the annual assessment rate for 1997-98 from 0.148 to 0.037, a 75 percent reduction that will mean a combined $250,000 reduction in the amount paid by the courses. But Linda Talbot, vice-president and manager of the Foxfire Golf Club and president of the Suncoast Golf Courses Association, said the 0.037 rate is still too high. The association would like to see the rate go down to at least 0.025, a difference that represents thousands of dollars.

"It's still a slap in the face as far as I'm concerned," said Talbot. "It's outrageous. The figures they are getting are so out of whack compared with what agriculture is paying. They're paying 10 percent less than we are. We still have to continue the fight. We're sod farmers in the purest sense of the word... We're being penalized because we allow people to play on the surface we cultivate."

Talbot said the county's assessment rate, even the recently reduced one, "is not based on scientific facts... it was a politically expedient thing for them to do to send off the litigation." She also criticized some of the standards used by the county to develop the rate level for golf courses. She said cart paths are factored in, for example, as if they were large-scale parking lots. In developing its original rate, the county also stated that it assumed golf courses irrigated at least 3.5 inches a week and that agricultural concerns did not irrigate, both of which proved to be untrue. J. P. Marchand, the deputy director of transportation for Sarasota County who oversees the county's stormwater program, said the new, reduced rate for golf courses was the result of using more sophisticated methodology. He said it recognizes that golf courses do not contribute as much runoff as a neighborhood lawn.

"I think our initial rate was fair," said Marchand, the former manager of the stormwater program, "but maybe you could say the new rate is 'more fair.' As we move on we may make even more refinements... Maybe we could have gotten to this step sooner...but we've made some adjustments and some modifications.

Golf courses and government bodies in several other counties in Florida have been watching the Sarasota stormwater assessment controversy with great interest. Stormwater runoff assessments, like fire and rescue, are what are known as non-ad valorem and are assessed against individual property owners according to the benefits to that particular property.

In Florida, except for certain charter counties, non-ad valorem assessments like the stormwater runoff one may be made by the county without a public vote, which is what happened in Sarasota. The concern of golf courses across the state is that Sarasota County's treatment of privately-owned golf courses could become a pattern in other counties.

Talbot said even though her group's legal costs are rising, they will continue to fight the county, and if necessary, help golf courses owners in other counties. Don Hemke, an attorney with the firm of Carlton Fields in Tampa, has been representing the golf course owners group since January. "I think we have a challenge and obligation to educate the County Board of Commissioners," said Talbot, "to educate politicians about what we do, and how well we do it, how much oxygen we supply, how much nature we support and how carefully we are with the chemicals we do use."
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CIRCLE #146

AD INDEX
Cart-path rule
Continued from page 38
far away,” said Andre, who advised the county that his agency was “taking steps” to refer the matter back to the Department of Justice for action. Jim Collins, Boone County administrator, said: “They [National Park Service] did not want to hear any of our arguments. No appeals were allowed. The course is at the end of its fourth year and we have reports from the dean of the University of Kentucky ag school and from the University of Georgia that cart traffic could damage the course. We were looking at five to seven years [to allow the turf to mature]. “We have two courses in the county,” he continued, “The older course allows golfers to go off the cart paths. Both the ADA Resource Center and the Department of Justice said that this accommodation was under the letter and spirit of the law.”
In a mid-October conversation with Boone County attorney Larry Crigler, he advised that, “The matter is probably going to be settled. The course will close for the year in two weeks and the course will be made accessible to Mr. Duckworth when it reopens in April 1998.” He went on to explain that the date of compliance, 1999, originally stated by the county, was a “typographical error.” Duckworth feels his cause has finally been vindicated. “I went to the papers with all the correspondence,” he said, “and I think that, and the fact that it is an election year coming up, along with the threat of action by the Justice Department is what got the county to agree.” He is skeptical about the typographical error. Jones is happy with the outcome as well. “We are not in business to promote the handicap,” he noted. “We promote the game, and are advocates for full inclusion of everyone who wants to play golf.”

Canadian participation
Continued from page 8
1990), their participation rate has remained flat at 15% and is heavily skewed toward higher income families. The survey reveals, however, that Western Canada, which has long established junior programs, enjoys extremely strong participation among 12-17 year olds, with the Prairie provinces showing a 28% participation rate and British Columbia 21%. “The game and the overall (Canadian) industry has enjoyed a solid participation rate over the past seven years,” says MacDonald. “Our challenge now is to increase the [current] 19% rate to 20% or 25% by creating national junior golf development programs that are accessible and affordable like the RCGA’s Future Links. Without programs to introduce and keep people in the game, the industry will have trouble maintaining or increasing what it has right now.”

Among other findings in the 1996 Golf Participation in Canada Survey report:

- Annual rounds played in Canada increased between 1990 and 1996 about 26% from 53 million to 67.3 million. In the U.S. over the same period, they’ve remained level at about 480 million a year.
- Canadian golfers average 14 rounds per year ... as compared to 19.3 for U.S. golfers.
- 347,000 Canadians started playing golf in 1996 ... vs. 2 million in the U.S.

The RCGA, the governing body of men’s amateur golf in Canada, determines national policies and standards relating to the game on behalf of its more than 235,000 members.

Copies of the report can be purchased through the RCGA’s membership development department at 905-849-9700.

However, the activists admit that the recent economic downturn in Asia has had more to do with the lack of development than with their ability to convince the public that golf course development is not viable.

While this may mean bad news for perspective developers and the existing golf courses, it also means that the anti-golf activists have for the most part ceased operations since they sense no impending crisis. It is their belief that Asian economies have no more room left for golf development.

Certainly, the issues surrounding golf course development in Asia are already extremely complex, and GAGM and GNAGA seek to add to this complexity. While there may be certain elements of truth in their arguments, their rigid ideology does not allow for compromise—their arguments get lost amongst their rhetoric of hysteria and misinformation. Following these discussions, I began to have nightmares that the courses I was planning to visit were being taken over by pitchfork wielding farmers seeking to reverse economic injustice.

Fortunately, after a mind-cleansing visit to a local Bangkok driving range, I was once again able to dream of lush Asian courses in natural surroundings.
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