THE WORLD OF MAINTENANCE IN '98


There were the horrors, the struggles, and the challenges that accompanied drought and then flood in the South Central states, the fires and then hurricanes in the Southeast, the torrential downpunts from El Nino in the West, and the Ice Storm of the Century in the Northeast. Fairways and roads were washed away, clubhouses burned down, disasters of historic proportions.

Then, there were the thrills of discovering a control for poa annua and moss, and of building golf courses to serve as laboratories to study the effects of maintenance on the environment.

Golf course maintenance is a dynamic field, demanding that superintendents read up and pay attention to the many scientific advances. The next few pages share a glimpse of the top GCN stories from the year.

Notable Quotables

• "I'd like to get my hands on a 200-acre farm and see what kind of a golf course I could build. Something tells me it would be a little unorthodox,." — Ed Michaud, superintendent at Sugarloaf Golf Club in Maine, who in the winter at Sugarloaf has built the No. 1 snowboarding resort park in North America, filled with "pipes," "table tops" and "pyramids."

• "I would parallel it [control for poa annua] with new drugs, or even new discovery for killing cancer tumors. That's how important it is to me." — David Major, superintendent Del Mar CC in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

• "It was scary from the standpoint that I didn't think fire could travel that fast. You could not outrun it." — Michael Fabricant, director of golf maintenance and construction for Montauk and Palm Coast Resort in Daytona Beach.

• "It sounds odd, but we would love a hurricane or tropical storm right now." — Bruce Berger, superintendent at Quarry Golf Club in San Antonio, Texas, not long before Texas was hit by a series of storms.

• "Our single biggest spring problem is keeping the golfers off the course until the frost thaws out." — Jerry Fauel, super at Saginaw (Mich.) CC.

Biorationals: A tide of the future in turfgrass care

By MARK LESLIE

COLUMBUS, Ohio — You may not find the "neem" tree in your dictionary. Nor the words "biorationals" and "naturalies." But they will be playing increasingly important roles in golf course maintenance, according to Dr. Parwinder Grewal, an assistant professor of turfgrass entomology for the Ohio State University (OSU) Extension Service.

Speaking at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Conference here, Grewal said some biological controls have succeeded and some have not, but their use has increased tremendously in the last decade — a harbinger of the future.

Piecing together research from OSU, Cornell University and other colleges, Grewal updated the audience on research done on biologicals and biorationals. He defined biological control as the use of a living organism — such as Earthworms enrich the soil with their fecal matter, for example. Dr. Michael Boehm at Purdue said, "What Purdue produces is the help of course architect Pete Dye, multiple donors and a group of students who built it. Purdue University on June 27 will open a golf course that will produce a major five-year study on the effects of golf maintenance on ground and surface water.

Pointing out that environmentalists criticize past corporate-funded studies as biased, Dye said: "What Purdue produces should be the most unbiased report, simply because there is no reason to be biased. Good or bad, no one can argue the findings." All the money to build the new Kampen Golf Course and fund the research came from private sources, not golf associations or the chemical industry. "I was very much concerned that it not be company funds," Dye said. "We did this with Clemson University at the Ocean Course at Kiawah [in South Carolina], but Kiawah was a pristine piece of ground, so how

Universities pioneering the way

Purdue pursues research

By MARK LESLIE

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — With the help of course architect Pete Dye, multiple donors and a group of students who built it, Purdue University on June 27 will open a golf course that will produce a major five-year study on the effects of golf maintenance on ground and surface water.

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New biologicals...

By MARK LESLIE

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Questions abound in the arena of turfgrass soil ecology and biology, but Dr. Michael Boehm pointed to a future where biological care plays an equal role in maintenance with chemical and cultural care and the turfgrass' genetic resistance.

The Ohio State University (OSU) assistant professor of plant pathology painted a picture in which current maintenance practices are dominated by chemicals, and where cultural practices will become more important roles in golf course maintenance, according to Dr. Parwinder Grewal, an assistant professor of turfgrass entomology for the Ohio State University (OSU) Extension Service.

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K-State a new breed

By MARK LESLIE

MANHATTAN, Kan. — A new breed of college curriculum, one that opens management avenues to future golf course superintendents, will begin with construction of a prototype Tournament Players Club (TPC) university course at Kansas State University here.

Colbert Hills Golf Course, named for PGA Senior Tour player Jim Colbert, will be many things to many people.

"The positive impact of this project will be far-reaching," said Stephen Mona, chief executive officer of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), "a golf management program to train tomorrow's leaders, a research facility to aid the golf industry, and a first-class facility for golf enthusiasts." It will provide "unique research and academic opportunities for K-State students and will bring the university from not only an economic standpoint, but also as an educational tool," said Ed Barnes, executive director of the Land Lab and Asset Development for Cal Poly Pomona.