Spotlight on Asia
Is the Philippine golf industry poised for a rebound? Overbeck takes a closer look

Battle for Atlanta
North and South American superintendents take on the world in October’s Hayter Cup

Field Days: Seed quality put to the test
By Michael Levans
Corvallis, Oregon—With field burning severely cut back and three mild, very wet winters behind them, Oregon-based seed growers are facing what is perhaps the heaviest onslaught of Poa annua, Poa trivialis and native bentgrasses contamination the industry has seen.

According to regional seed growers, the problem has been mounting over the past five years and is affecting species across the board—even species that are traditionally Poa-free.

“We’re basically starting to see the effects of five or six years of no burning,” said Glenn Jacklin, senior vice president of production and grower services at Jacklin Seed Co.

The past three mild winters haven’t helped either. Due to higher than normal temperatures and extensive rains, growers aren’t getting the necessary activity out of standard chemical practices.

“This year we’re seeing Poa annua in production areas that we traditionally don’t see it because of the winters,” said Jacklin. “With El Nino, we had a pretty light winter in all our production regions.”

The work now rests on the shoulders of seed farmers. The seed cleaning process has slowed considerably while, in many cases, farmers have added costly machinery upgrades to... Continued on page 46

Childs play: Kids Course a new first
By Mark Leslie
Lawrenceburg, Ky.—A “kid’s course” built within the existing layout may prove a key option for golf facilities around the country, now that Bob-O-Link Golf Course has pioneered the concept.

On Father’s Day, Bob-O-Link opened its Kids Course within the 22-year-old track, thanks to owners Jack Ridge, who is also a golf course architect and president of a children’s golf-product company, and member Andy Heinly, club general manager Ron Delaney and member Ray Grimm. Weiskopf returns to this, one of his favorite sites, to do a little fine tuning to the course over the summer.

Intrawest continues move on South
By Peter Blais
Vancouver, B.C., Canada—Vancouver-based Intrawest, one of the largest ski resort owners in North America, has moved further into the warm-weather resort market with its recent purchase agreement to buy Florida’s Sandestin Resorts for $130 million. Sandestin is a 2,400-acre golf course resort with 63 holes of golf and a residential community located between Pensacola and Panama City.

Tom Richardson, chief financial officer of American Skiing Co. (ASC), also a large owner/operator of ski resorts and golf courses throughout the country, said of the Sandestin deal: “It has a lot of condominium management opportun... Continued on page 32

The First Tee takes first strides
General Session set for national forum

Palm Springs, Calif.—The First Tee program, an initiative that is sweeping the country to draw new people, especially children, into golf, will be the focus of the General Session at this year’s Public Golf Forum here, Oct. 26-27.

Created by the World Golf Foundation, PGA Tour, LPGA, PGA of America Richmond project construction starts
By Mark Leslie
Richmond, Va.—Iron Bridge Park, which offers baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, football, basketball, handball, racquetball and trails for hiking and biking, is about to add perhaps the nation’s first project specifically developed to be a First Tee facility.