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Pre-opening sparks fly at Roaring Fork
By MARK LESLIE
ASPEN, Colo. — The Roaring Fork Club is opening July 1, but the spotlight may already have been stolen by a criminal court case in which the project manager for the development will stand trial on three counts of felony theft and one of failure to appear.

Michael Bolton is charged with allegedly stealing $230,000 in cash from the Roaring Fork Club during three separate six-month periods.

Each is a Class 3 felony punishable by up to 24 years in jail, according to Pitkin County Assistant District Attorney for the development.

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Eco-Soil inks innovative deal with Chubb
By M. LEVANS
SAN DIEGO — On the heels of its EPA approval for the use and distribution of its biopesticide, Spot-Less, though the BioJect biological distribution system (GCN, March '99), Eco-Soil has inked a deal with Chubb Insurance that offers comprehensive coverage at a reduced rate for users of the company's system.

Under the guidelines of the deal, Eco-Soil customers using Chubb insurance will be provided expanded liability, environmental liability and expanded property coverage. In short, Chubb has identified courses using biologicals as a lower financial risk and will, in turn, protect the club, its own employees, officers and directors from environmental claims.

"As we bring this technology to superintendents, we want to demonstrate to them that biologicals are the way to go," said John Doyle, vice president, CMAA faces 'image' issue
By PETER BLAIS
SAN FRANCISCO — Enhancing the club manager's image and the election of a new slate of officers, including the organization's first female officer, were the foci of the Club Manager's Association of America's (CMAA) recent annual meeting here.

Like the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, which has made enhancement of the superintendents' image a major organizational mission, the private club managers association is also seeking to improve the perception of club managers and general managers in the communities in which they work.

"Everybody wants to be identified as a professional," said CMAA Executive Vice President James Singerling. "Identifying themselves not just to the choir [themselves] but to the rest of the congregation [club members and community] as well is probably something they (club managers)

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Flat pipe revisited
By MARK LESLIE
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Out with the thin-slitted flat pipe; in with the regular-slotted style. That is the determination of the manufacturer as well as superintendents at golf courses that have used the flat pipe made here by Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. (ADS).

"We decided not to use the sand-slot [as if slit by a razor] pipe in the golf market because of the soil mixtures people are using," said Kevin Rapp, ADS' marketing manager for golf courses. "We are recommending the regular-slotted pipe, whose perforations are much bigger, with the sock on it."

By "sock," Rapp was describing a geotextile fabric that fits over the pipe like the outer skin of a snake and prevents sand or soil from plugging the slits. A Maine golf course that had used the flat pipe in its practice green reported problems with it, which Rapp attributed to a sludge-type subsoloil. A couple of other courses

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Pennington Seed plans substantial facility expansion

MADISON, Ga. — Pennington Seed Inc. has started construction of a new packaging and production warehouse that will more than double seed storage and delivery capabilities at headquarters here.

The company said that the 41,000-sq.-ft. building, which will be operable by late summer, will increase annual production of its wildflower seed varieties, wild game products and southern warm season turfgrasses by up to 15 percent.

The facility will increase storage of all cool season grass seed varieties and enable Pennington to produce as much as 10 truckloads each day with upgrades like bulk seed handling and custom blending equipment.

"The new warehouse will improve Pennington's ability to produce, store and deliver our signature line of products," said Tony Harper, vice president of Pennington's seed production division. "Increased storage space will enable us to process orders more efficiently, and the on-site railway system will mean less time spent in transit. Retail distributors don't want to store our products until they need them—they want to receive our products when they need them."

Eco Soil

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biologics program manager at Eco Soil. "We've developed an insurance program underwritten by Chubb that rewards the golf course for moving toward the biologics."

On property coverage, the company said that the Chubb policy expands the traditional definition of "real property" to include golf course property. The core features include automatic blanket limits on specific items such as EDP property and fine arts as well as a risk management service.

Eco Soil is also offering an expanded workers' compensation policy as a separate item.

"The policy, across the board, should generate enough savings to the golf course to pay for half of the system," said Bill Adams, Eco Soil's chairman and chief executive officer. "If they incorporate workman's compensation into the system it's possible that the savings could pay for the whole system."

News of EPA approval of the Bioject distribution system came to the company on the evening before the start of this year's GCSAA show.

"We had to prove that in one particular instance, with one particular bacteria, that the whole system was safe to all the golf course employees and players," said Doyle.

"We took one bacteria, put an application in for a biopesticide, showed antifungal characteristics with that bacteria, then had to prove that that bacteria was the only bacteria finding its way onto the golf course. That was quite an extensive process."

With the official thumbs up, Adams said that the company must move forward as an "educator" and not just a marketer of product.

"We have tried to stay away from the environmental issue because there is so much bad publicity out there already that superintendents are not tuned into the environment," said Adams. "We find that to be just the opposite, that they truly are environmental stewards."

"Our job, and one of the reasons we acquired this distribution system, is to help teach our sales people to help the superintendents to integrate these products into their cultural plans. Superintendents are using good products today and they're probably using them well, minimizing any environmental impact. But we think we can show them how they can cut back frequencies and achieve better effectiveness to really get behind this IPM bandwagon," said Adams.