

BRIEFS



TURF DIAGNOSTICS PROMOTES DIXON

OLATHE, Kan. — Turf Diagnostics and Design, Inc. (TD&D) has announced that Charles "Chuck" Dixon has been promoted to president and Sam Ferro to vice president. Dixon, a co-founder of TD&D and previously the corporation's vice president, will be responsible for the overall direction of company and oversight of the TD&D's technical operations. Ferro, who was the business manager, will be in charge of the company's financial, marketing and personnel efforts.

OTF PLANS RESEARCH FUND-RAISER

ZANESVILLE, Ohio — The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) will hold its annual golf outing Sept. 27 at Eaglesticks Golf Club here. The annual OTF outing raises money to promote the turfgrass industry in Ohio through research, education and matters of policy. In 1998, more than \$17,000 raised from the outing went to research grants and student scholarships in Ohio.

Netwal running the grow-in race at Deere Run

MOLINE, Ill. — Energized by late-spring conditioning, the Tournament Players Course at Deere Run came a long way toward fulfilling its dream of being a world-class golf course that will serve as the site of the John Deere Classic in the year 2000 and beyond.

"I look at the photos from just a month ago and I'm amazed at how much progress has been made in just a short time," said



John Netwal, who, as course superintendent, is responsible for the playing conditions.

"Some of the thin areas of grass on the front nine have thickened up," Netwal said. "We seeded the back nine tees in early June and we're preparing the back nine greens for seeding. The back nine fairways are starting to germinate. If the weather gets nice, we should be moving right along."

Kym Hougham, tournament director for the John Deere Classic, said he is looking forward to conducting the championship at Deere Run next year.

"All the feedback I have received from



The 5th at TPC at Deere Run, where grow-in continues under John Netwal (r).

people who have toured the course has been extremely positive," Hougham said. "We think the players are going to love it."

Now that the front nine has grown in despite an unusually wet spring, Netwal

Continued on page 13

Fixing damage from course vandalism

By PAT LEWIS

The situation is not unfamiliar to golf course superintendents. On a dark night and with nothing to otherwise occupy them, vandals decide to drive their car over the greens on a local golf course.

The challenge to the superintendent is a difficult one: How do you match the re-sodded areas with the rest of the green?

Here's a step-by-step solution:

- 1 Set the sod cutter to a depth of about 3/4 of an inch to an inch.
- 2 Strip the tire mark areas and remove the pieces of sod for disposal in your compost pile. Neatly square off the ends and keep these end areas at a depth even with the sod cutter depth.
- 3 Select a long, healthy patch of sod along the edge of the clean-up lap. After measuring the length required for repair, strip this sod out with the sod cutter depth being the same as when you started. Square off the ends in the same manner as in step 2.
- 4 Lay this new sod in the awaiting areas, then topdress.
- 5 Maintaining the sod cutter at the original depth, strip a long, healthy patch of sod along the outside edge of the apron (be sure to measure first). Lay this sod in the awaiting clean-up lap of the green, then topdress it.
- 6 The final awaiting area can be either seeded or sodded with purchased bentgrass or from your own nursery. If seeding, neatly staple down some type of greens blanket fabric or other breathable material to make it noticeable for the golfers to stay off it until it germinates. (Re-



Above, vandals "lay rubber" — only, on a golf course it is "lay turf." Right, a crew cuts a long patch of sod along the edge of the mower's "cleanup" lap. Bottom, that sod replaces the area destroyed by vandals, maintaining the same type of grass variety on the course.

A step-by-step approach to resodding areas damaged by tire tracks



ON THE GREEN

Former superintendent at Portland (Maine) Country Club and president of the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association, Pat Lewis is co-owner of Lewis Brothers Golf Course and Property Services Inc. in Falmouth, Maine. This article was reprinted with permission from the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association's Mainly Green newsletter.

move the cover when the grass begins to poke through it.)

7 It will be necessary to mark a new temporary edge for the clean-up lap of the green along the area that now has a higher cut of grass than it used to.

The superintendent's patience — and immediate communication to all potential greens mowing operators — will hopefully insure that this area does not get scalped.

The focus should be to define the new edge as it will be a few months before you can safely begin lowering the height to establish the original clean-up lap edge.

8 Water all sodded areas at least twice a day until they are rooted and continue to topdress these areas once a week until all is healed.

9 Because you now have, in theory, the same grass varieties in your damaged areas as the rest of the green, the tire tracks will match the rest of the green.



Netwal prepares Deere Run for opening, Tour

Continued from page 11
said his next challenge is to make sure the course survives the inevitable heat and humidity of summer without losing ground. "Turfgrass doesn't grow in hot, humid months," said the certified golf course superintendent. "The best growing seasons are spring and fall. We just hang on

in the summer. It's a challenge even on mature courses." Two wet springs in a row in the Quad Cities have been the biggest challenge to the growing schedule, according to Netwal. But the PGA Tour construction staff has worked diligently to ensure that the TPC at Deere Run will be ready for tour-

namment play by the year 2000. Sod contractors from Michigan worked through last December laying sod. Erosion areas have been re-seeded and re-sodded in order to keep the project on schedule, Netwal said. Extra drain basins have been added on several holes to handle water run-off. Meanwhile, the spring rain

"The drought we were hoping for hasn't arrived yet. As soon as the drought arrives, we'll be praying for rain."

— John Netwal

was like a house guest who doesn't know when to go home. And it was still hanging around this summer. "We've been pummeled [with

rain] the last week and a half," Netwal said in June. "We got one inch in 15 minutes the other day and we've had two other downpours that were worse. It causes erosion on newly seeded areas and it undermined some sod in some areas. But that always happens in construction. It's not anything out of the ordinary."

Netwal has little choice but to remain stoic in the face of such uncontrollable weather uncertainties, so he goes with the flow and maintains a cool, just-dry-enough sense of humor consistent with his weather preferences.

"The drought we were hoping for hasn't arrived yet," Netwal said. "As soon as the drought arrives, we'll be praying for rain."

The construction of the TPC at Deere Run is part of Deere & Co.'s nine-year title sponsorship agreement of the PGA Tour's long-standing Quad City tournament. Deere gave the Tour 385 acres of rolling, wooded property on the Rock River to build the course. The Tour will own and operate the facility as part of its TPC network. Deere Run is being designed by D.A. Weibring, winner of three Quad City PGA events, and Chris Gray of the Tour's design department.

Savvy Super

Continued from previous page
students or assistants to work for them because they are not at a "household name" course. This is very frightening and very sad for our profession's future. I suggest that students intern with the lower- to medium-level clubs with knowledgeable superintendents. Try it and you and your career will really like it.

GCSAA BACKS 1ST TEE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and its members are involved in a number of projects related to The First Tee Program, an initiative to create facilities and programs that make golf more affordable and accessible, with a special emphasis on youths. As part of GCSAA's 1999 Golf Championship, GCSAA and The Toro Co. teamed up to benefit The First Tee facilities being developed across the United States. In the previous two years of linking the golf championship to charitable efforts to benefit junior golf organizations, GCSAA members donated more than 225 golf bags, 7,000 golf balls, 450 golf clubs and \$1,700.

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