

BRIEFS



MILLIKEN CHEMICAL ASSISTS GCSAA FOUNDATION

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Milliken Chemical Co. has pledged a commitment that could exceed \$250,000 to support programs of The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Foundation. The pledge places Milliken in The Foundation's Old Tom Morris Society, the highest giving level in the "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign created to fund applied research and advanced education. Funding for the commitment comes from a percentage of sales from Milliken Chemical's foliars product line.

IGM HIRES MACKINTOSH

LAKELAND, Fla. — International Golf Maintenance, Inc. (IGM) has hired Gregory Mackintosh as superintendent for Widow's Walk Golf Course, in Scituate, Mass. The 18-hole public course, built on a former gravel and sand excavation site, opened in 1998. Mackintosh, with degrees in Turf Management and Urban Forestry, is a third-generation superintendent. IGM, a division of Meadowbrook Golf Group, is the largest service company in the contractual maintenance business.

WALTERS GOLF PROMOTES ST. JOHN

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Gary St. John has been named course superintendent for Desert Pine Golf Club, Walters Golf's 18-hole daily-fee golf club near the Las Vegas Strip. St. John has more than 10 years experience, most recently at nearby Stallion Mountain Country Club.

Proper used fluid disposal, promoting employee safety



By TERRY BUCHEN

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — At Frenchman's Creek Country Club here, superintendent F.W. "Chip" Fowkes III stresses employee safety through state-of-the-art Right to Know, Employee Safety Handbook and Hazardous Commu-

nication programs.

One of the most obvious examples is the club's handling of waste materials.

Waste materials are classified into non-hazardous and hazardous waste and then segregated into separate storage containers before being removed from golf course maintenance building properties.

Non-hazardous waste, such as used oil, which is comprised of crankcase oil, transmission fluid, gear oil, hydraulic fluid and power steering fluid, is usually put into a used-oil container ranging in size from 55 gallons to an average size of 250 gallons, or larger. Most states require that the used oil be recycled, and a permit, or at least written verification, is usually required to prove that disposal has been handled properly.

In some states, like Florida, used-oil filters must be temporarily stored in a totally separate container and also disposed of, usually by a recycling company.

Hazardous wastes include separate containers for used anti-freeze/coolant, which is composed of ethylene glycol and wa-

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Segregated waste containers provide easy removal by a recycling company.

Greens mower sulky provides easier travel



ON THE GREEN

By TERRY BUCHEN

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — Modifying the John Deere Fixed Sulky, which is normally used for riding behind other equipment, Osprey Point Golf Club superintendent Steve Miller and equipment mechanic Jeremy Muckelvaney have defeated the old nemesis of transporting walk-behind mowers.

Until the late 1960s, transporting walk-behind reel-type mowers for greens, tees, collars and approaches around the golf course was accomplished by literally walking behind them. The boom in turf-vehicle transportation transformed the job, beginning in the 1970s, as the mowers could be transported either in the back of a turf vehicle with a built-in folding ramp, or with individual or dual mower trailers with or without ramps. Employees were much less fatigued, mowing time was significantly



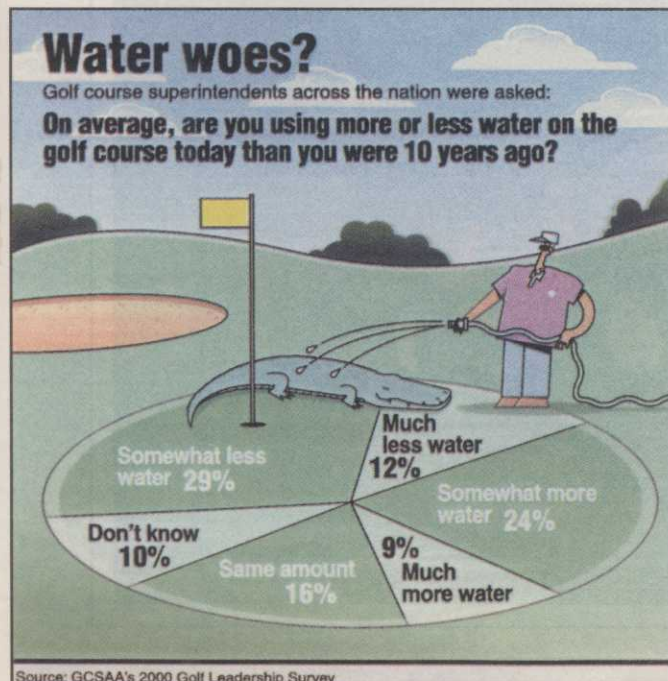
Greens mower sulky frees up turf vehicles for use by others.

decreased and more was left in the capital equipment budget to acquire these efficient, multipurpose vehicles.

Miller and Muckelvaney took the next logical step at Kiawah Island Golf & Tennis Resort's Osprey Point, when they outfitted the mowers with sulkies, eliminating the turf vehicle and trailer.

"We took the kick-stand off the back of the John Deere Model

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Golf course water use decreasing nationwide

Annual survey shows course supers watering more while using less

LAWRENCE, Kansas — Golf course superintendents are conserving more water than they did 10 years ago. According to a survey released by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the managers of the nation's courses are protecting one of the environment's most precious resources by watering more with less.

The GCSAA's 2000 Leadership Survey probed 1,800 course superintendents on a variety of issues pertaining to golf, golf course management and the industry as a whole. The results reveal that 40 percent of superintendents are using less water on their courses than they were 10 years ago. Of those using less water, 46 percent of superintendents are using 11 to 20 percent less than they were 10 years ago and almost a third (32 percent) said they are using between 20 percent and 50 percent less than a decade ago.

Sixteen percent of the superintendents said they are using the same amount of water as 10 years ago while only 33 percent answered they were using more water.

Interestingly, five out of six superintendents say they are applying water to the same or greater area of their course than they were a decade ago. More than half (55 percent) categorized the larger area by describing it as either "somewhat larger" or "much larger."

"I don't know of a professional who is more keenly aware of water issues than the golf course superintendent, and I don't know of an industry that has made as large gains in the area of water conservation as the golf course management industry," said GCSAA President R. Scott Woodhead.

"Today, we are much more well-educated and well-equipped on water management issues. Better grass selections for respective climates and computer monitored irrigation systems have been tremendous ad-

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Pros retiring their metal spikes

By JAY FINEGAN

NEW ORLEANS – The shift from metal spikes to plastic cleats, a virtual fait accompli among amateur golfers, has taken hold big-time among players on the PGA Tour. At one recent Tour event, the Compaq Classic, played here, only 57 of the 155 opening-round players sported metal spikes.

“These figures show that, at the very highest levels of golf, there is definitely a movement away from metal spikes,” said Kelly Elbin, vice president of communications for Softspikes Inc., in Gaithersburg, Md. “The movement that started at the grassroots level seven years ago is very much in vogue on the Tour.”

The Compaq Classic numbers were reported by the independent Darrell Survey Company, based in Atlanta, which provides weekly tracking data on four major tours. “They are the authority on the official counts each week,” Elbin said. “They literally stand on the first tee on the first round of the event, and they go through each player’s bag and write down what they’re wearing and hitting. We’ve paid them to do the report on cleats and spikes since 1996.

“Six of the last seven winners on the PGA Tour were wearing our brand, including Veejay Singh at the Masters,” Elbin added. “They’re going to plastic cleats from a performance standpoint. It’s all about traction.”

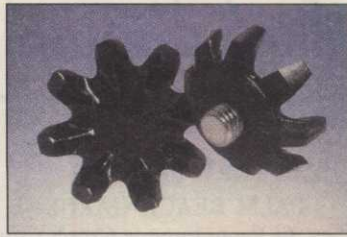
Privately held Softspikes, which introduced the first plastic cleats in 1993, is credited with touching off the mass shift away from metal. It remains the market leader. Its Black Widow polyurethane cleat, which debuted last year, is now the top-selling cleat in the United States, according to the company.

Although an estimated 8,000 courses worldwide have banned metal spikes, Tour players have the latitude to wear whatever they want. The conversion of so many Tour professionals marks the fall of one of the last major bastions of metal spikes, and golf course superintendents seem pleased to see the revolution nearly complete.

“I think the pros were a little hesitant,” said Dave Fearis, superintendent of Blue Hills Country Club, in Kansas City, Mo. “Their concern – and obviously their livelihood is dependent on it – is slippage while they are swinging. Once they broke that perception, and realized that some of these new plastic cleats offer great traction, it started going completely the other way.

“The plastic cleats are a god-send for us,” added Fearis, who is last year’s president of the Golf Course Superintendents Asso-

ciation of America. The maintenance benefits of plastic cleats, he noted, extend beyond turf protection. “They don’t tear up the carpet in the clubhouse, which saves a lot of money,” he said. “They don’t rip up the mats in the carts, and they don’t tear up the benches that we’ve got around the tees. And of course



Softspikes' Black Widow.

they’re a lot more comfortable. Your feet aren’t tired after playing a round.”

Proper fluid disposal means safety

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ter; used parts washer cleaner/solvent that is composed of mineral spirits; used chlorinated cleaners, such as carburetor cleaner and brake cleaner, that cannot be mixed with other wastes; and used paint waste, such as paint and paint thinner.

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Meanwhile, Fowkes also posts a conspicuous sign in the employee lunch room that lists the days without a time-loss accident. It’s a good incentive for employees. ▶

WHO NEEDS “FOOTPRINTS”?

Now, by popular request, here is the new way to put an end to those exasperating grooves, depressions and compaction on your greens and tees, which can easily effect your players’ scores. Our new turf sprayer is engineered to a surprisingly light weight, so it leaves no “footprints” and is always kind to your finest turf - and to your players.

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