

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

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.



ON THE GREEN

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

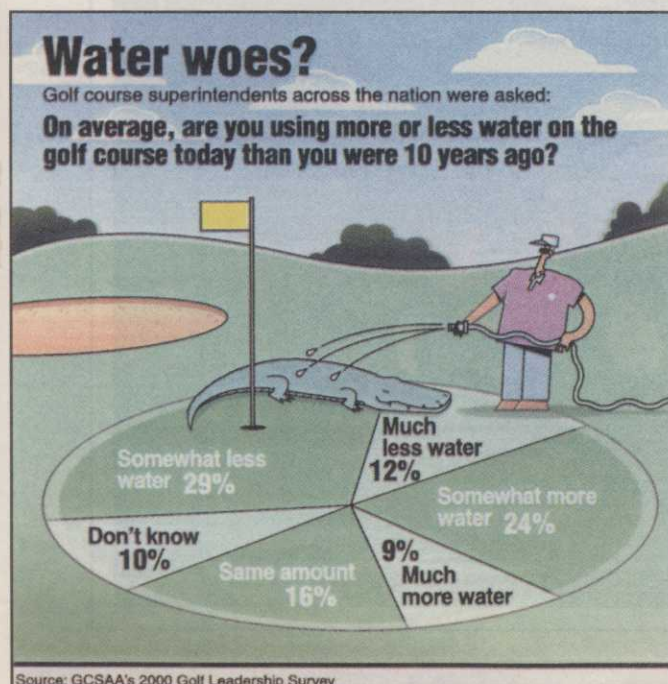


Greens mower sulky frees up turf vehicles for use by others.

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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GCSAA survey

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vances. Compared to other businesses, and most certainly homeowners, golf courses are among the most efficient users of water."

FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

Product use (pesticides, fungicides, fertilizer, etc.) on the golf course has seen both in-

creases and decreases across all polled superintendents.

The results show that 36 percent of superintendents say they're using fewer products than they were 10 years ago and, in some cases, they're using up to a third less. On the other end of the spectrum, 35 percent say they're using more products. Twenty-three percent say they're using about the same amount of

product as a decade ago.

Although clear advances have been made in water usage and irrigation, superintendents continue to fear the lack of it — drought. When asked what environmental or weather-related condition could negatively impact their course next year, 50 percent said drought was what they are most concerned about.

Course overcrowding and re-

strictions on pesticide usage (both 12 percent) were the second most common concerns.

With drought as their biggest threat, superintendents say fighting it is one of their toughest challenges. Forty-five percent of the superintendents say negative public perception is the biggest challenge in battling drought to maintain playable conditions. They also said it's

difficult to battle drought on an overcrowded course (21 percent) and that state-imposed water restrictions (18 percent) create their own operational challenges during drought.

GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

As superintendents are an integral part of course management, they are witnessing and enjoying record numbers of golfers on their courses each year. However, 95 percent of superintendents say the increase of the golf season is creating unrealistic expectations for maintaining playable courses through all four seasons.

When asked what could improve efficiency in course operations, superintendents responded with more diverse responses. The plurality of respondents (37 percent) say that within the next five years, they expect improved varieties of turfgrass to have the biggest impact. Close to a third (34 percent) say that better-skilled superintendents will be able to have an impact on improved efficiency. Other responses include improved irrigation technology (11 percent), increased use of sub-contract labor companies (5 percent) and improved mower technology (5 percent).

Looking ahead, superintendents are identifying future challenges in improving course conditions. Within the next five years, the plurality (32 percent) see a decreased labor pool as their biggest challenge.

Other concerns include an increase in operating costs (25 percent) and increases in environmental regulations (23 percent).

TECHNOLOGY

The annual survey also revealed that superintendents have embraced the Internet.

Ninety four percent of respondents said that they have Internet access either at their course or at home. What are they using the Internet for?

Personal communication (46 percent) and obtaining industry information (44 percent) were the top two choices. Very few (4 percent) use the Internet for either business-to-business or personal e-commerce.

GOLFER ETIQUETTE

Behavior on U.S. courses is going downhill, according to superintendents. When asked whether golfer etiquette has improved, declined or stayed the same in the last 10 years, 51 percent responded that behavior on the fairways and greens has declined, while only 23 percent claim that etiquette has improved.

For the second straight year, superintendents (85 percent) identify the failure to repair ball

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GCSAA survey

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marks as the most common breach of golfer protocol, while 65 percent of superintendents cite the failure to fix divots as the second most common breach of etiquette. Superintendents also blame the failure to repair ball marks (81 percent) for causing the most damage to golf course conditions.

FUN FINDINGS

The survey also revealed a number of other interesting facts:

- Superintendents rate Jack Nicklaus as the greatest golfer of all-time. Thirty three percent rank "The Golden Bear" tops in the game. Arnold Palmer (11 percent) and Tiger Woods (8 percent) came in second and third, respectively.

- Superintendents were asked, if they could play one round of golf in North America, where would it be? Augusta National Golf Club garnered the most votes (36 percent), while two Monterey, Calif. area courses — Pebble Beach Golf Links (23 percent) and Cypress Point Club (18 percent) rounded out the top three.

- On a question of leadership and executive privilege, superintendents rated President Kennedy (16 percent) their top choice among 20th century U.S. presidents to play a round of golf with. Presidents Eisenhower (13 percent) and Reagan (12 percent) were the second and third choices.

Dodson commentary

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Bronze, Silver and Gold Signature represent the landowner's environmental and economic investment in sustainable development, the complexity of the project, and the extent to which the institute is involved.

To make this determination, the Audubon Signature Program provides the opportunity for a landowner to describe the proposed project, to apply to become a Signature member, and through communication with Signature staff, determine the most appropriate level of involvement.

For more information about the Signature Program, please contact Signature Program Director Nancy Richardson at 270-869-9419.

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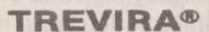
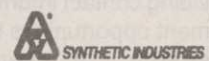
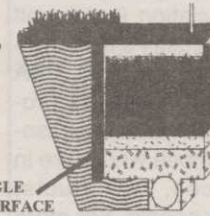
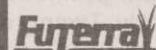
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