



BRIEFS

JIM SIMS NAMED SUPERINTENDENT AT DEL LAGO

TUCSON, Ariz. — Jim Sims, recently the assistant director of golf course maintenance at The Lodge at Ventana Canyon (Ariz.), has been named superintendent and head of operations at the new del Lago Golf Club here. The Tim Nugent-designed course plays to 7,206 yards from the back tees. "Del Lago is a totally different course for Tucson," said Sims.



Jim Sims

"There's natural running water and a network of nine lakes to work with. It is going to be an exciting course to maintain." A graduate of Penn State, Sims also served as the assistant superintendent at The Raven Golf Club at Sabino Springs, Ariz.

BROWN WINS TOP CGSA AWARD

VANCOUVER, Canada — The Canadian Golf Superintendent Association (CGSA) announced the selection of James Brown, superintendent at the Brightwood Golf & Country Club, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, as their Superintendent of the Year for 2000. The award will be presented here during the CGSA's Conference and Trade Show here Feb. 24-27. Brown was chosen by a committee made up of the last four winners and the current past president of the CGSA. The deadline for nominations for next year's award is Aug 1.

GEORGIA'S GCSA ELECTS NEW BOARD

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association has elected a new board of directors for 2001. Franz W. (Buck) Workman, superintendent at Catechee GC in Hartwell, was elected president, and Philip W. (Wade) Thomas, of the Idle Hour Club in Macon, was elected vice president. Jim Dusch becomes immediate past president.

Newly elected board members include Mike Crawford, of TPC at Sugarloaf in Duluth, Tim Janzen, of the Cartersville CC in Cartersville, and Mark Synder, of Berkeley Hills CC in Duluth. Those re-elected for a second term include Sam Crowe, of the Monroe G&CC in Monroe, Jimmy Geter, of the Marietta CC in Kennesaw, Craig Ketelson, of Orchard Hills GC in Newnan, and Frank Siple of the Lanier GC in Cumming.

Rainbird's Krueger: shortages will spark wars over water

By TREVOR LEDGER

FRANKFURT, Germany — Warning that there is no replacement for water and that costs for the essential resource are rising annually, Rolf Krueger of Rainbird Europe sounded an ominous note at the Golf Course International 2000 conference here in Frankfurt. "We see wars fought over oil," Krueger told his audience. "We will see more and more fought over water."

Against that backdrop of limited water confronting a global population surging out of control, Krueger urged the golf industry to emphasize conservation. Indeed, at every conference or gathering of those in the golf industry, water and its use is of primary concern.

But Krueger seemed unconcerned that the issue has gotten so much play. He launched into a lecture on water management which covered all the bases and then added one more that might just break the mold. "I don't want to be revolutionary," he said, "but perhaps the old idea is more environmentally suitable. When

new greens are constructed we should look very closely at water retention. The best way to achieve this is through bowl-shaped greens made out of soil, not sand."

Having created a standardized model for the construction of golf greens with the ubiquitous USGA specifications, Krueger's suggestion that perhaps we should revert to the pre-irrigation design of the early 20th century is likely to raise eyebrows — if not hell. But the thinking behind such an observation is irrefutable. Although 71 percent of the earth is covered with water, less than one percent of it is potable.

'CLAY BOWL' GREENS

Green construction was but one area where Krueger felt that golf courses could reduce the need for water use. Saltwater-resistant grass strains — *Paspalum vaginatum*, for example — need to be explored and developed, he said, alongside improved desalination plants.

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Grand Strand's River Club reopens after extensive greens renovation

PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. — The River Club, a favorite along the Myrtle Beach "Grand Strand" and a top Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort layout, has reopened after a million-dollar reconstruction project.

The refurbishing involved shelling out all of the greens and installing a sub-air drainage system, which will improve the greens by pumping cool air into them during the hotter months of the year.

Bunkers also were shelled out and white sand was added to improve the playability and visual appeal of the course.

Greens were planted with A-1 bentgrass to improve the putting surface and increase heat tolerance. The bent was provided by Stormy Acres, a New Jersey-based company, and is the same grass that has been sodded into some of the greens at Augusta National.

"The A-1 has added to both the playability and quality of the course, offering a premier golf experience as one of the only bentgrass courses in Pawleys Island and Litchfield," said Jim Woodring, director and general manager of golf operations for the Myrtle Beach National Co., which manages the club. "The finished prod-

uct has made for a fabulous golfing experience."

All of the work has been done according to USGA specifications, he added. Golf architect Tom Jackson, who created the original design, supervised the renovation.

The daily-fee River Club is one of the premier plantation courses in the

Myrtle Beach area. It features water on 15 of its 18 holes and more than 100 sand traps and bunkers.

Myrtle Beach National has evolved into one of the leading golf management operations in the Southeast, featuring some of the

most respected names along the Grand Strand. The company was formed in 1971 with the construction of the Arnold Palmer-designed original 54-hole golf complex, which includes the West Course, Southcreek and King's North.

Since then, the company's portfolio has grown to include the Robert Trent Jones-designed Waterway Hills, Jack Nicklaus' Long Bay and Aberdeen Country Club, Dan Maple's Willbrook Plantation and Willard Byrd's Litchfield Country Club. All are signature courses in the Myrtle Beach area.



Aerial view of the River Club layout

GCSAA sharpens political-action tool for members

By JOEL JOYNER

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Legislative Action Center of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has introduced a new web-site designed to give superintendents a stronger voice on the political front.

"The site combines legislative and regulatory tracking for 50 states and advocacy tools with ZIP code look-up," said Carrie Riordan, government relations manager at GCSAA. "It also provides information on lawmakers and state and federal governments, and it allows members to click right over to a legislative bill."

It's like one-stop shopping site to keep superintendents involved."

The GCSAA's incoming president, Tommy Witt, is encouraged by the prospect of getting members more politically engaged.

"Each and every local chapter has to decide how involved they like to be politically at the state and local levels," Witt

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EPA sets water quality criteria for nutrients

By JOEL JOYNER

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency has laid out its first-ever criteria for water quality standards for nutrients. Golf courses and superintendents, often targeted as culprits, may experience the ramifications of the new guidelines as state laws and policies snap into alignment.

Nitrates and phosphates from fertilizers are the primary agents of cultural eutrophication, the depletion of oxygen from water due to extreme enrichment and algae growth. Nutrients, especially nitrogen, are vital to the productivity of lakes, rivers, reservoirs and wetlands. Conversely, high nitrogen levels cause excessive growth of algae, bacteria and zooplankton, depriving fish and plants of oxygen.

Basically, the high levels of run-off nutrients in waterways create environmental conditions that choke aquatic life. An assessment by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration identified such situations in many U.S. estuaries, especially along the Gulf of Mexico and the Mid-Atlantic coast. Chronic symptoms of this nutrient overenrichment include fish kills, increased sediment accumulation, low levels of dissolved oxygen and unusual shifts in flora and fauna species, according to EPA reports.

"We're recommending these criteria to the states as starting points in developing their own, more site-specific, criteria for water quality standards," said Tom Gardner, an EPA environmental scientist. "States are required to review their standards every three years."

"If we find the states do not meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act," he added, "then it is within our authority to

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EPA guidelines

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propose and promulgate standards for them."

CONTAMINATION IS WIDESPREAD

In a 1998 water quality report to Congress which prompted the Clean Water Act, nutrients were categorized as the leading cause of water pollution.

State surveys on cultural eutrophication indicated that

about half of the nation's waters do not adequately support aquatic life because of excessive nutrients. According to the surveys, excessive nutrients have degraded nearly 305 million acres of lakes and reservoirs and over

84,000 miles of rivers and streams to the point where they

no longer meet basic aquatic life needs.

States are expected to adopt or revise their standards by 2004.

The criteria provide numerical values for both causative (nitrogen and phosphorus) and

response (chlorophyll and turbidity) variables associated

with the prevention and assessment of eutrophic conditions, according to the EPA's Office of Water.

The criteria are expected to identify problem areas, serve as a foundation for state and tribal water quality standards for nutrients, and evaluate relative success in reducing cultural eutrophication.

Although nutrient pollution is a national problem, it varies by

region with geographical differences in geology and soil types. The Clean Water Action Plan divided the nation into 17 ecoregions, with researchers examining various types of water bodies and conditions of nutrient contamination throughout the country. Regional, federal, state and tribal specialists have examined the information to establish the criteria for nutrient standards. ■



Rainbird's Kreuger

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"Locations for new golf courses, taking note of heat, slope, humidity, wind, rainfall and sunshine hours would, in the future, become absolute essentials," he predicted.

The fact that so many in the golf industry are exploring the potential ways around the water problem indicates that the situation is deteriorating. The more immediate problem for many of the delegates at GCI 2000 was that they were largely drawn from northern Europe, which is currently paddling through exceptionally wet weather. To hear about reverting to "clay bowl" greens and reducing water use while many golf courses are under several feet of water could be viewed as cruel irony.

The point that Krueger was making however, was that the current wet weather is indicative of a climate change in general – warmer, wetter winters coupled with hotter, drier summers – which leaves the age-old problem of "feast or famine."

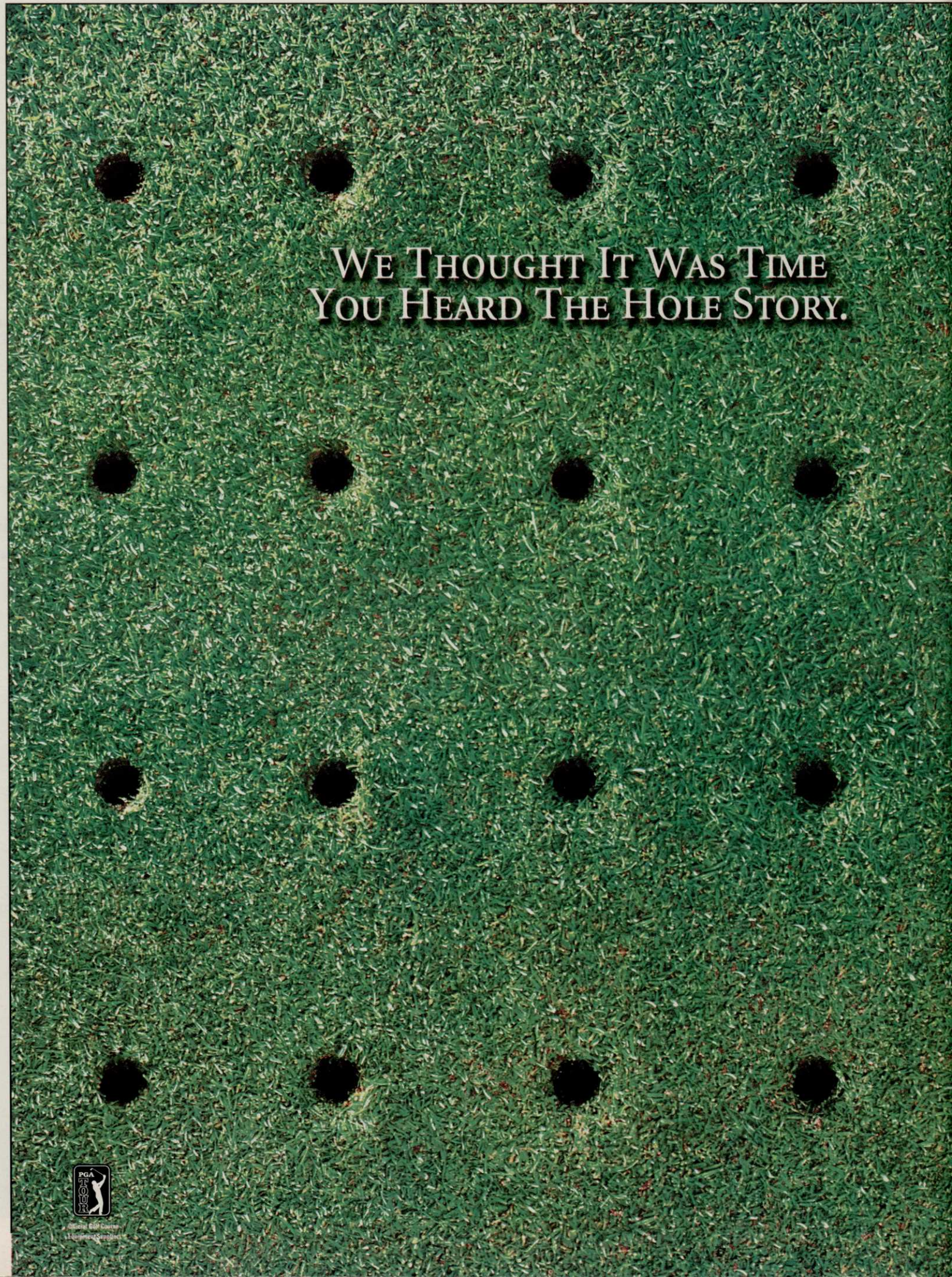
LESS WATER, STRONGER ROOTS

Krueger also suggested that increased use of water storage reservoirs to collect storm water was at least advisable if not absolutely essential. Naturally, given Krueger's employment, irrigation systems were also put under the microscope, but not in the sense of the "hard sell."

Actually Krueger pointed to a general malaise in Germany and central Europe. "Too much watering is done because the belief is that watering equals success," he said. "Decreasing watering encourages more extensive root growth and thus makes for healthier turf."

The technological advancements made in modern irrigation systems make for a much more efficient system than those available just five years ago. The aforementioned irrigation reservoirs can also be linked into drainage systems, which can yield a potential 90-percent recycling of irrigation water. ■

Trevor Ledger is the international bureau chief for Golf Course News.



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