

## Tools of the Trade...at Todd Raisch's Ridgewood CC

PARAMUS, N.J. — Superintendent Todd Raisch hopes to be at the top of his game when the 2001 Senior PGA Championship arrives here at Ridgewood Country Club this month.

The championship will be played over a composite course using select holes from all three nines: Center, West and East courses. The layout, which can be stretched to 7,150 yards, will play at 6,904 yards for the event.

"We'll feature the sixth hole from the Center course, a short but devilish hole of 275 yards with a 1,700-square-foot green," said Raisch. "It was recently ranked by *Golf* magazine as one of the Top 500 holes in the world."

The 1929 A.W. Tillinghast-designed layout has fairways lined with 100-year-old oaks. "This is by far our biggest maintenance challenge," said Raisch. The large oaks deprive the poa annua greens, tees and fairways of vital sunlight, water and nutrients. "Trees are a very emotional issue at our club, and in the past you could have been hung for suggesting that a tree be removed," he said.

Three tees were rebuilt this past fall and will be included in the tournament. "It was not part of the tournament preparation," Raisch said, "but rather an ongoing

project to increase the size of our tees. We're currently in the design phase of a master plan with architect Gil Hanse."

A Memorial Day fire sparked by a cart charger back in 1997 has led to the construction of two new maintenance buildings. "We now have a 6,000-square-foot equipment storage facility and a new 4,200-square-foot employee/administration building complete with bedrooms for student interns," said Raisch.

The superintendent is building toward peak conditions for

**A 1958 RYAN SODCUTTER IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IN RAISCH'S INVENTORY**

the championship. "You would be hard pressed to find a better week on the calendar to have a major championship in northern New Jersey," Raisch said. "The one downside is that we will still be in the window of opportunity for poa annua to seed, albeit near the end. It will be critical for us to nail the timing of our Embark applications."

**Greens mowers:** 11 John Deere 220A

**Tee mowers:** 10 John Deere 220A

**Fairway mowers:** 7 LF-128 Jacobsen

**Rough mowers:** 2 John Deere 1600, 2 Lastec 475MD

**Turf utility vehicle:** 10 Cushmans, 6 John Deere Gators,



Two new John Deere 1600 rough mowers in Raisch's maintenance building

**6 EZ-GO Workhorses**

**Verti-cut reels:** 6 for John Deere 2500 Triplex

**Aerifiers:** 2 John Deere 1500, 3 Ryan Greensaire 24

**Topdressers:** 1 Cushman

**Grooming reels:** 7 for John Deere 220A

**Tournament speed roller:** 3 Salsco

**Reel grinder:** 1 Foley Accupro

**Bedknife grinder:** 1 Foley

**Irrigation pump station:** 1200 GPM Flowtronex PSI

**Irrigation system:** Toro Osmac

**Golf car fleet:** 60 EZ-GO electric

**Flagsticks:** Par Aide 8' yellow

**Computer & accessories:**

Dell Inspiron 50,000 notebook, Palm Vx

**Primary herbicide:** Primo

**Primary insecticide:** Merit

**Primary fungicide:** Daconil Ultrex

**Primary slow release fertilizer:** Plant food 20-0-0

**One thing you could not live without:** My wife Susan and daughter Elly

**Oldest piece of equipment:** 1958 Ryan sodcutter

**Total square footage of maintenance building(s):** 19,200 square feet

**Annual rounds of golf:** 35,000

**Normal green speed:** 10'

Tom Prichard named superintendent at new Fazio course

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — Tom Prichard has been named superintendent of The Glen Club, an 18-hole layout in Glenview, Ill., being designed by golf architect Tom Fazio. The course is scheduled to open in July.

Prichard, who has been with KemperSports Management since 1991, has been managing the grow-in of The Glen Club since last August.

"Tom has an outstanding track record with our organization and is accomplished in all areas of turf grass maintenance and management," said Steve Lesnik, KemperSports CEO.

Two years after joining the company, Prichard was named superintendent for two of KemperSports' Chicago-area facilities: Royal Melbourne, the Greg Norman-designed private club in Long Grove, and the nine-hole Vernon Hills Golf Course. In 1998 he assumed additional responsibilities for the company as a regional agronomist providing consulting services to other KemperSports properties in the Midwest and West.

Before coming aboard at KemperSports, Prichard served as superintendent at Lakewood Golf Club and Woodstock Country Club, both in Illinois, and as assistant superintendent at Big Foot Country Club in Fontana, Wisc. He is a Class A member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

## New Tricks for Our Trade

Take advantage of the Internet without building your own web site! It's simple with GreenIndustryOnline.net and its great tools.

### CallBook

Record all communications and delegate assignments, even from remote locations.

### Calendar

Coordinate CallBook information with specific times and dates.

### Markets

Buy, sell or rent equipment, supplies, accessories, plant materials and other products with no transaction fees. All prices are completely confidential. Track, sort and compare quotes.

### Banner Advertising

Your message will precisely target your current and potential customers.

Monthly Subscription or Annual Membership Available



GreenIndustryOnline.net  
The Communication Network

Phone 888-999-5133

## Northwest drought

Continued from page 1

NOAA acknowledged that a jet stream pattern, termed the "Omega block," formed a barrier last December that diverted Pacific rain and snow storms from the Northwest to California and Canada.

"They're talking about the drought situation all over the West Coast," said Michael Barber, superintendent here at the Hangman Valley Golf Club. "Usually we'd get rain down here in the lowlands and the mountains would bulk up on snow in the winter, but that never happened this year. I've heard the snow pack is only 50 percent of what it should be in the mountains."

### 'CROSS YOUR FINGERS'

"If worse comes to worst, we could be in big trouble," Barber said. "It's a cross your fingers and hope that you make it through the summer situation because, obviously, there is no quick fix. We irrigate the course with surface water from Hangman Creek, and we don't have an alternative water source available here."

Typically, the Northwest helps California keep the air conditioners running in the summer. This year, however, soaring energy rates and lack of precipitation may leave the entire West Coast high and dry. Mother Nature would need to deliver precipitation in biblical proportions to help the region recover from the drought.

"They're forecasting a wetter-than-normal spring," said Sean Hoolehan, superintendent at

the Wildhorse Resort Golf Club in Pendleton, Ore. "But the drought forecasters claim that it would take at least 200 percent of our normal expected rainfall during the months of March, April, May and June to get us back to normal levels."

### SALMON OR HOT TUBS?

Reservoirs are hitting record-low marks as California's population and energy consumption climbs.

"There's no question that our reservoirs are all extremely low," Hoolehan said. "I drove to Portland recently, and I've seen water levels this spring lower than what I've seen in summers past. I work in the high desert, and we get all of our rain from October to April," he said. "We still get some rain after April, but the amounts diminish substantially."

What will be the rippling effects of this drought as summer activities approach? "I'm not sure to what extent it will effect the energy crunch in California," said Hoolehan, "but we have our own issues surrounding our hydroelectric output regarding fish and the salmon."

Spilling water over dams to generate power is likely to jeopardize stocks of chum salmon and steelhead that migrate to the ocean in the spring and summer. The chum salmon is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

"We can't afford to wipe out fish stocks just to keep California out of the dark," Hoolehan said. "That's what the governments, the tribes and the

Continued on page 18