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INSIDE

Pick up the pace

From GPS to hard-nosed policies, courses are using many tools to fight speed of play problems.....20

New Product News

Get a head start on the fall buying season with GCN's New Product News.....27



NATIVE AMERICAN RESORTS

Architect Gary Panks is actively pursuing opportunities to work with Native American communities. He has already designed Twin Warriors Golf Course (above) for the Santa Ana Pueblo in Beranillo, N.M. and is currently working on a course for the Gila River Indian Community. See story page 16.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

New overseeding varieties hit the market.....9
Midwest suffers Pythium outbreak.....9
Tools of the Trade at Nelson's Beaver Creek.....10

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Nicklaus opens course high in the Rockies.....16
Rulewich adds second track at Crystal Springs.....16
Diamond Golf rolling in Mexico.....17

COURSE MANAGEMENT

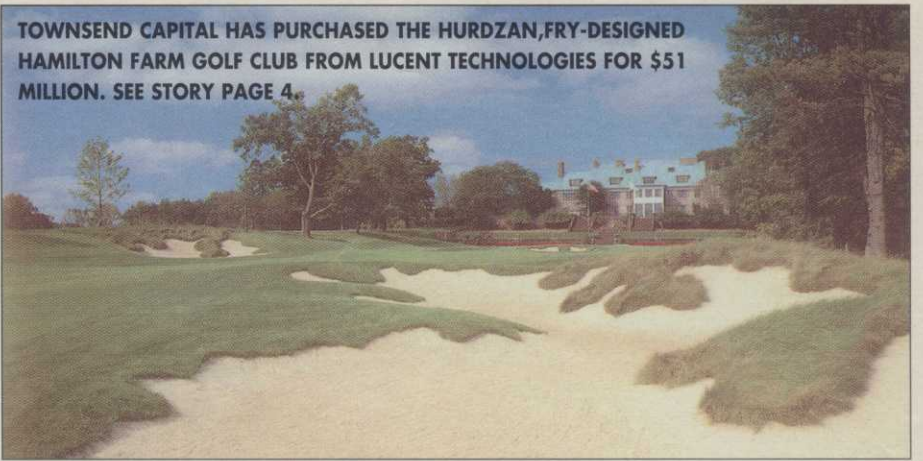
Troon expands staff to handle rapid growth.....20
Heritage Golf takes Hamilton Mill private.....20
Tom Frost establishes management firm.....21

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

John Deere showcases new products, prototypes...24
Milorganite testing new formulation.....24
GCSAA refines Internet plan.....24

PERIODICAL

TOWNSEND CAPITAL HAS PURCHASED THE HURDZAN, FRY-DESIGNED HAMILTON FARM GOLF CLUB FROM LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES FOR \$51 MILLION. SEE STORY PAGE 4.



Dow AgroSciences sorting out Rohm and Haas acquisition

Company to expand its golf presence

By ANDREW OVERBECK

INDIANAPOLIS — As the consolidation trend in the chemical industry continues to unfold and competition heats up, companies are scrapping for whatever market advantages they can get their hands on. In the case of Dow AgroSciences, it made the move earlier this year to purchase Rohm and Haas because the added product lines boosted its position in fungicides and expanded its presence in the turf and ornamentals market.

"As we looked at our product line, we realized that we've always lacked a strong fungicide line," said Scott Eicher, Dow AgroSciences' senior product marketing manager for turf and ornamental.

The need to balance its product portfolio, which is strong in both herbicides and insecticides, was made especially clear last summer when the rates and uses of its popular Dursban insecticide was scaled back by the Environmental Protection Agency. According to Eicher, addressing product gaps was important for the company



Scott Eicher

Continued on page 26

EDITORIAL FOCUS: Winter Preparation

Currier preparing for winter, 2002 Open

By JOEL JOYNER

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — "I'm hoping like crazy we don't get a lot of snow this winter," said Craig Currier, superintendent here at the Black Course at Bethpage State Park and host to the 2002 U.S. Open.

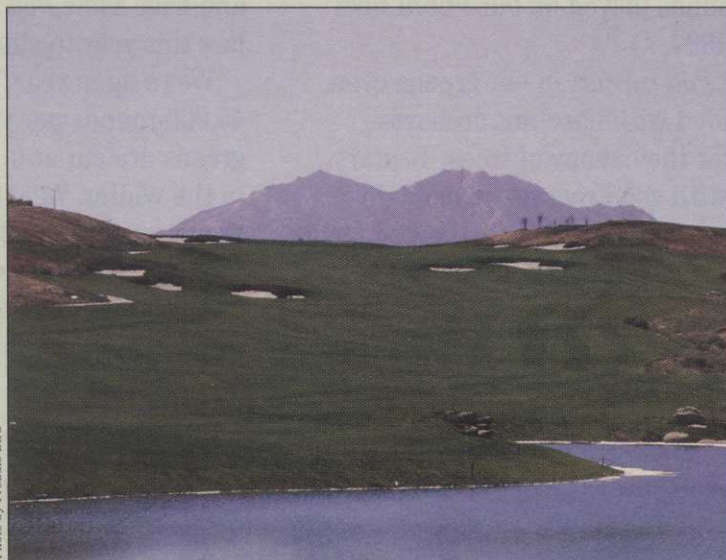
Currier was brought on in 1997 just as the Black



On course at Bethpage Black: (left to right) Superintendent Craig Currier, USGA executive director David Fay, architect Rees Jones, and parks superintendent Dave Catalano.

Course, one of five public layouts offered here, was closed for an entire year to undergo a \$2.7 million refurbishment. Golf course architect Rees

Continued on page 12



The sixth hole at Troon's Shadow Lakes Golf Club located east of San Francisco

Troon adds to California stable

By DOUG SAUNDERS

BRENTWOOD, Calif. — Shadow Lakes Golf Club has opened for play here continuing the growth of the stable of courses built and operated by Troon Golf Management of Scottsdale, Ariz. The facility is situated in the rolling grasslands of this agricultural community just east of San Francisco in a region that has seen a flurry of golf course construction in the last three years.

The 6,700-yard Gary Roger Baird-designed course plays through a

Continued on page 23

IRS's depreciation ruling due in November

By ANDREW OVERBECK

ATLANTA — The National Golf Course Owners Association, along with accounting firm KPMG, is continuing to work with the Internal Revenue Service to achieve a favorable outcome in its two-year battle to update tax rules to allow for the depreciation of greens, bunkers and tees.

The issue, which has been fast-tracked as part of the IRS's newly created Industry Issues Resolution (IIR) pilot program, is set to be settled by November.

Besides an initial meeting with the IIR group in June, KPMG partner William Ellis organized a course visit for IRS officials in

Continued on page 23

Bethpage Black

Continued from page 1

Jones donated his services in enhancing the 1936 A.W. Tillinghast design.

Tees and bunkers were rebuilt, some bunkers were restored or moved closer to the greens, and about 250 yards were added to the design during the renovation project.

Even with the makeover, Currier knows that winter weather has the potential to be damaging. The facility, which keeps three or four courses open year round, was hit by as much as 15

inches of snow in a single weekend last winter. "If it snows, we have flooding here," said Currier. "Over New Years weekend, my whole crew was basically monitoring floods."

INITIAL CHALLENGE

Before he arrived at the facility, maintenance practices were limited, according to Currier. "They hardly did anything," he said. "In all fairness, they only had a crew of four or five people."

Currier was recruited from an assistant position at Garden City Golf in Garden City, N.Y. to step up the maintenance program at Bethpage. "We've spent a ton of money on equipment, anywhere from \$250,000 to \$350,000 each year, to upgrade all five courses," he said.

"The crew has also grown substantially," said Currier. "We keep about 50 people on staff for the winter season. We now have a maintenance team that compares to similar facilities."

12 ACRES OF BUNKERS

Currier and his crew will be tackling bunker sand replacement as their biggest project this winter. The layout sports over 12 acres of bunkers.

"The bunkers are enormous here, and they've been contaminated with quite a

few stones in the past few years," Currier said. "Several of them are really steep, and we've had a few bad wash-outs. We'll start work on them this fall and continue until early next spring putting in new sand."

Last winter, the Bethpage facility had about 25 inches of snowfall altogether, according to Currier. "Knock on wood, we didn't have any winterkill last spring," he said. "We had some ice developing for a little while, but we went and verti-drained the areas and broke it up."

"The two previous winters, we had very little snow," said Currier. "Hopefully we'll get that again. It certainly makes it easier. We do a lot of our tree work throughout the winter season as well."

WINTER PREP

Preparations at Bethpage for the upcoming winter include overseeding, aerated turf, and snow mold treatments on the greens. The Black Course was closed for a few days after Labor Day this year to overseed a few fairways that weren't quite where Currier wanted them.

"I also have about five or six acres of sod ordered," Currier said. "We're going to go around and strip off all the high traffic areas around greens and bunkers and resod them."

Currier aerated the greens in August, following the Met Open, and did the roughs and green surrounds in early September. "I'll be topdressing all the fairways this month with a light shot of straight sand," he said. "We've been topdressing them a couple of times each year."

"We'll also be overseeding them this month with ryegrass," said Currier. "We'll go

with bluegrass, though, in our green surrounds. We reseeded all the roughs last fall with rye as well. With the dormant seeding in, we'll pump up the roughs in the spring to get them a bit thicker."

The main focus for Currier this fall will be to get the dormant seed fed well so that the grass comes out in decent shape in the spring.

THE OPEN

The Black Course is shut down every year on Nov. 15, and opened again around April 15. "We'll keep the course open next spring through Memorial Day, and then we'll close it for 13 days prior to the tournament," Currier said. "I imagine the place will be somewhat in disarray."

The Red Course is usually closed Dec. 1 and opened again at the end of March. The Yellow, Blue and Green courses, weather permitting, are played year round.

"The Green and Red courses, holes one and 18 of each, will be established as corporate villages during the Open," said Currier. "The first hole of the Yellow Course will become the driving range. All next spring, our scheduling is going to be a little bit whacked out here. But having those 13 days to set up will be nice." ■

H-2B visas

Continued from page 9

Corneillier said. "Last year, I was wondering how we were going to manage 36 holes once the new River Course opened."

Fortunately, the H-2B visa program had been in full swing for a couple of years at the resort's ski mountain to fill positions for lift operators, ski instructors, and food and beverage workers.

"We were able to expand that program, saying, 'Our needs for the summer are just as critical,'" Corneillier said. "Last year was the first time we hosted employees on international visas, and it worked well. This year, it's working great."

KEYSTONE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS

Keystone hires about 3,000 individuals each season between summer and winter activities, according to Amy Kemp, communications manager at this scenic resort in the heart of the Rockies. "Out of the 44 people on the golf course maintenance staff this summer, 22 were here on visas," she said.

The training program is one of the best around, according to the River Course assistant superintendent Don Petrey. "We have the GCSAA training videos that we use, and we've developed tests for every piece of equipment we have here," he said.

"Following the tests, trainees stay with the employees until they are both absolutely sure the trainee is comfortable with the equipment," he added.

THE MAINTENANCE GIRLS

The resort recruited several female workers from Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina for its maintenance staff.

"Every employee we had here speaks English fluently," said Petrey. "The girls were responsible, early for work, and ready to work. It was a refreshing change. They worked hard, listened well and were willing to learn."

Transportation did not pose a problem. "A few either had or shared cars," said Petrey. "Some relied on mountain bikes to get around, but we also have a shuttle service here."

Keystone also provides housing. "We have dormitory-style housing as well as apartment and management housing for our employees," said Kemp. "We've finished two new buildings this year devoted to employee housing. We can house upwards of 1,300 people."

Visa extensions are possible. "I'm here on a six-month visa, and I've applied for an extension to work through the winter," said Veronica Furze, from Buenos Aires. "It's not hard to get, it's just a matter of waiting for it. We never know when we're going to get approval."

As the season wound down here this year, management at the course will have to wait until next season to see some familiar faces again. "It's going to be hard seeing some of them go," Corneillier said. "That energy and enthusiasm they bring with them - they show up in the morning giggling." ■

Mycorrhiza for Turf



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APPLICATIONS

EndoROOTS is a granular, water-soluble, mycorrhizal fungus that forms a symbiotic relationship with the roots of grasses and other plants. It is used to improve the growth and health of turfgrass and other plants by increasing their ability to absorb water and nutrients from the soil.

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- **Watering:** Applying EndoROOTS to the water used to water the turf.

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A view of the bunkers with the 18th green in the background

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