



BRIEFS

CAROLINAS GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION APPOINTS BARTON

LIBERTY, S.C. — Julian S. Barton, CAE, has been appointed as the new executive director of the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association. Barton spent the past decade with the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, which represents the interests of the agricultural community by providing education and representation in government affairs. Based in Columbia, he was assistant to the president for development, overseeing a \$4 million budget. He also served as their director of government relations. Barton joined the Carolinas GCSA this month replacing Chuck Borman, CAE, who is the new chief operating officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.



Julian S. Barton

HAMILTON JOINS THE DUNES GOLF AND BEACH CLUB

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — The Dunes Golf and Beach Club has named Stephen Hamilton as golf course superintendent. Hamilton's responsibilities will include maintaining the golf course, supervising maintenance staff and serving as a club liaison to the Dunes Golf and Beach Club's green committee. Hamilton joins the Dunes Club from The Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst, N.C., where he was golf course superintendent. There he supervised the recent reconstruction of the club's Dogwood course, a project that encompassed 18 green complexes, tees and fairway bunkers.

IGM SIGNS CRAIG RANCH GC

CHAMPIONSGATE, Fla. — International Golf Maintenance (IGM) has reached a maintenance agreement with Craig Ranch Golf Course, located in North Las Vegas, Nev. The 18-hole Craig Ranch Golf Course was designed by J.C. Stimson in 1962. Danny Smith, who was an assistant superintendent at Craig Ranch for 18 years, took over the superintendent position from his father in 1998. With the Craig Ranch agreement, IGM now maintains some 100 courses across the country.

Superintendents reshape state water restrictions

By ANDREW OVERBECK

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Following the drought of 1999 when sudden water restrictions forced golf courses in parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey to cut irrigation use by as much as 90 percent, superintendents in both states teamed up with other green industry partners to retool drought emergency rules.

Working closely with each state's department of environmental protection, the industry has achieved or is close to achieving new water restrictions

lands Golf Club, the vague restrictions that the Pennsylvania DEP put forth in the summer of 1999 simply created confusion.

"The drought regulations opened the door to the people who were going to abuse them or ignore them altogether," said Wall. "Some guys got screwed for cutting back because their courses went brown while others who ignored it had green turf."

Spurred on by the late Dave Rafferty who was the superintendent at Chambersburg Coun-



Bill Wall's Dauphin Highlands Golf Club in Harrisburg, Pa.

that will not negatively impact golf courses. The three years of hard work is already paying off, as 26 counties in Pennsylvania and all of New Jersey have declared drought emergencies.

SUCCESS IN PENNSYLVANIA

According to superintendent Bill Wall here at Dauphin High-

try Club, Wall put together a group of superintendents from across the state and the DEP held meetings to discuss flaws in the regulations.

"They didn't have any golf course experts," Wall said. "This stuff is a different language to

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Moss hits Colorado hard, more research needed

By KEVIN ROSS, CGCS

DENVER — A recent symposium here brought superintendents from across Colorado together to discuss the sudden invasion of moss on greens. The problem is clearly widespread, as more than 140 superintendents attended the meeting to learn more about how to combat the rapidly spreading bryophyte. There are still, however, more questions than answers.

The symposium featured Dr. Tony Koski from Colorado State University; Matt Nelson from the United States Golf

Association's Green Section; Matt Giese from Syngenta; and John Wynne from Bio-Safe Systems. Rusty Oetker from Soil Solutions also held a roundtable discussion. The group presented information about the spread of moss, various research efforts, and possible control options.

According to Dr. Koski, controlling moss is difficult for three central reasons.

"Moss is a very resilient and tough plant and we don't really know that much about it because there has been little hardcore research done," said Koski. "It is also very difficult to selectively eradicate."

In Colorado, the moss plant on greens has been identified as Silvery Thread moss or *B. argenteum*.

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Treated moss (left), and untreated moss (right)

Flowtronex study quantifies water quality concerns

DALLAS — Pump station manufacturer Flowtronex recently conducted a survey of 603 randomly selected golf course superintendents to determine their attitudes toward and awareness of water quality issues and solutions. The study purposely targeted areas of the United States known for having high pH, carbonates and bicarbonates, excessive algae growth, etc.

The study was overseen by Flowtronex's director of marketing Tom Levey.

The following results were collected:

- Overall, 63.3 percent stated they are concerned about water quality. Seventy-six point three percent said pH is critical to soil health and 64.5 percent said they are concerned about government regulations.

- When asked unaided about water treatment options, pH control topped the list at 36 percent, but 32 percent of respondents said they could not think of any water

quality treatments. Other options listed included: aeration, filtration, fertigation, ozone injection and biological treatments.

- One-quarter (26 percent) of superintendents do not test their water quality while another 47 percent test it less than once a month.

- Most (81.6 percent) use a lake or pond for irrigation water

on their course and the average number of pump stations used by a facility is 2.2 (although the majority, 59 percent, have only one).

- Eighty-eight percent of all respondents had some level of familiarity with liquid fertilizers.

- Seventy-two percent use both liquid and granular fertilizers on their courses. Although most don't feel strongly that either type is definitely better than the other, superintendents with an opinion prefer liquid fertilizers to granular (29.7 percent to 19.3 percent, respectively).



Editorial Focus: Safety and Accessories

Risk management plan can prevent accidents, litigation

By TED HORTON, CGCS

Golf can be a dangerous sport and the potential for danger from negligent design and maintenance exists on many courses. Golf car mishaps, environmental concerns, slips and falls throughout the property, maintenance equipment accidents and exposure to weather can all result in serious injury to golfers, guests and employees.

Considering our litigious society and the fact that insurance rates have escalated since Sept. 11, it has become even more important to implement a sound risk management program to help prevent injuries and property damage, as well as to protect against liability.

Courses should first inventory areas of potential liability. These include four basic areas: premises, operations, vehicles and natural causes. By no means is the following list all-encompassing. Examine your own operations and list every possibility for exposure to accident or injury and review the checklist quarterly.

PREMISES

Risks are abundant throughout a golf course property both on and off the course.

- Examine course design for defects. Are balls entering private properties, roads or adjacent holes? Are there blind tee shots, dangerous doglegs or other places of concern? Are waiting areas adjacent to tees safe? Remember that 85

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Superintendents retool restrictions

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them, and we really lead the way in rewriting some drought regulations. They will still reduce water use, but it will make it more manageable for professionals in the field."

The new restrictions were unveiled in late February. Golf courses must submit a watering plan to their commonwealth drought coordinator and are allowed to water at an average daily rate that does not exceed 70 percent of the course's five-year calendar month basis quantity. Watering is still limited to the hours of 5 p.m. and 10 a.m., but hand watering and syringing is allowed during the day.

"We didn't mind restricting water use, but we wanted to be able to have the ability to use the water how we saw fit at our course," Wall said. "We simply told them that if they wanted to cut the water back, they should let us as professionals decide how to use the water."

According to Ron Ruman with the Pennsylvania DEP, Wall and other green industry members were very helpful. "We are trying to work with all businesses so that they can continue to operate," he said. "But we hope that all courses follow the letter of the law and reduce the quantity that they are using because this is a very serious situation that we are in."

Ruman said that local police will enforce the new policy and all golf courses must submit plans to their commonwealth drought coordinator before beginning any irrigation this season.

NEW JERSEY REGS IN LIMBO

Superintendents in New Jersey have taken a similar approach to reworking water restrictions, but are still waiting for confirmation from officials with New Jersey's DEP.

"We started meeting with the DEP in 1999 because they required other industries to cut back water use by 25 percent, but golf courses were forced to reduce use by 90 percent and only water greens and tees," said Chris Carson, superintendent at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. "We felt it was unfair from an agronomic and economic standpoint and we have worked hard as an industry to get a logical plan in place. We have not achieved that yet, but they have heard us and we hope that we will be treated as a business and not as a luxury item."

The entire green industry in New Jersey came together to form the Alliance for Water Conservation and has been working with Rutgers University to quantify the economic impact of the turfgrass industry and formulate best management practices for

water use on golf courses.

"Golf is currently labeled as non-essential by the state," said Glenn Miller, superintendent at Manasquan River Golf Club. "But the green industry is a billion dollar industry in New Jersey. Similar to those in Pennsylvania, we have been working with the state to come up with a work-

able year-round conservation plan cuts back water use, but that lets us use the water where we deem necessary."

With restrictions imminent, Miller expects new rules to be announced soon and is optimistic that they will be easier on golf courses.

"We are in better shape now than we were three years ago," he said. "Being proactive is the key." ■

Delaware, Audubon

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environment."

Audubon International's president and CEO Ron Dodson hopes Delaware's efforts will catch on in other states. "One-hundred percent participation in the program

nationwide may occur some day," he said. "But at least today, we are one step closer to that goal. I hope that the DSGA initiative will be replicated in states and regions throughout the country." ■



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