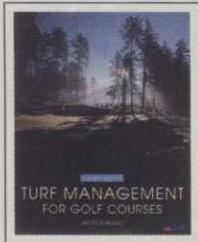




## BRIEFS

### BEARD RELEASES NEW EDITION OF TURF MANAGEMENT FOR GOLF COURSES

CHELSEA, Mich. — Dr. James B. Beard, professor emeritus of turfgrass science at Texas A&M University, has released the second edition of *Turf Management for Golf Courses* that has been 20 years in the making. With editorial contributions by USGA agronomists, the new edition is a complete revision offering more than 800 pages of management tools to help golf course superintendents, club managers, owners, architects, green committees, consultants, and builders. The reference is available from Ann Arbor Press, located here, and is published in four-color processing in an oversized format.



Beard's second edition is now available

### STEPPICH SIGNS ON WITH IGM

CHAMPIONSGATE, Fla. — International Golf Maintenance announced that Tony Steppich has joined IGM as the Northeast regional manager. His main office will be located in the Philadelphia area where he will be overseeing the day-to-day operations at 13 facilities spanning from Massachusetts, through New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Prior to joining the outsourcing company here, Steppich was the superintendent at the TPC Golf Club of Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Fla.



Tony Steppich

### COUSINEAU JOINS CGSA

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, Canada — Ken Cousineau, CAE, has been appointed the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association's executive director. He succeeds Vince Gillis, CAE, who retired from the post last month. Cousineau has worked for an Ontario-based, not-for-profit organization for the past 14 years and brings with him association management experience, both in managing administrative functions and external relationships with government and stakeholders. He will assume his new duties here as of Feb. 11.

## Super ideas: tree recycling, chemical cuts, and a tee blower

By JOEL JOYNER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Innovative solutions to help save time and money in a maintenance operation is just what golf courses need when the economy starts to turn sour. From self-supporting tree recycling programs to reducing chemical use on the golf course to innovative debris blowers, superintendents John Gurke, Andrew Dalton and Larry Balko have implemented creative solutions that have proven successful at their courses.

### TREE PROGRAM

At the Aurora Country Club in Wheaton, Ill., in the Chicagoland area, superintendent John Gurke has developed a tree planting program that supports itself. Located on a small acreage property in a residential area, the club has no room for a landscape waste disposal site, according to Gurke.



John Gurke

"We must recycle all landscape waste on site," he said. "What we've done is start a self-perpetuating tree program, whereby we cut and split all large tree material into firewood and chip smaller material for mulch."

The by-products are then sold to club members — delivered, stacked, and/or spread — for a cost of \$50 per dump truck load. The money is deposited into a new tree fund. "This way, we pay for new plantings with money garnered from dead or removed plantings," Gurke said.

"The labor cost is minimal, and all log splitting and chipping is done from fall to spring on frost mornings when the crew can not get out on the golf course," he



Superintendent Andrew Dalton on the third tee of the Hill course at Copper Hills G&CC.

continued. "It's a win-win situation. We get rid of the material without paying the high price of waste removal, and members get low-priced firewood and mulch. It also works as a nice public relations tool for member-staff relations."

In addition, every year in late October, the course obtains a permit from the Aurora Fire Department to hold a Halloween bonfire/hayride. "We pull a rented hay wagon around the course at night by tractor, with scare stations set up throughout," said Gurke. "The members have dinner at the clubhouse, get on the hayride and meander down to the maintenance area where we light up all unsold and unused firewood. We also include a bar tent, music, and pizzas for the event. It's a great time, and we legally finish off our extra and unsuitable-for-firewood material."

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## Bay Hill gets new greens, super

By GARY BURCHFIELD

ORLANDO, Fla. — For 22 years, superintendent John Anderson raised corn and soybeans in north central Iowa before "retiring" to run a golf course in Florida. He took over as superintendent at Bay Hill Oct. 1 when long-time superintendent Dwight Kummer resigned to join a Florida company.

However, it's not all new for Anderson. He has been at Bay Hill for 13 years, the last 11 years as assistant superintendent. He knows the course. He knows the conditions. But now, the buck stops at his desk.

"There is a little extra pressure in March with the Bay Hill Invitational because it's on national TV. I've been through several of them as assistant superintendent, but this will be my first one as the golf course superintendent," Anderson said.

### RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

With a nationally televised event coming up this spring, Anderson has a big job in front of him. Fortunately, the par-72, 7,207-yard Bay Hill Championship

Course, is in top condition. Anderson recently overseeded the greens with Laser Poa Trivialis and the roughs with Palmer Perennial Ryegrass. Additionally, all 18 greens were re-grassed last summer.

"They were planted with Tifdwarf 11 or 12 years ago, and that grass was about at the end of its natural life," Anderson said. He hired an outside firm to



The new greens mix consisted of 80 percent sand and 20 percent Profile soil amendment.

shave off the old sod and dig out the top four to five inches of soil, to get rid of most of the organic material. They brought in all new soil, a mix of 80 percent sterile sand and 20 percent Profile porous ceramic soil amendment.

After the new soil was in place, they had an outside service fumigate each green, which involved covering the surface with plastic and injecting fumigant to get rid of any soil pests or troublesome organisms. After the treatment, greens were re-sodded in mid-June with new ultra-dwarf TifEagle.

"The TifEagle sod was grown on plastic so it was basically bare roots when we put it down on the new base. It took

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## New turf disease hits the Carolinas

By JOEL JOYNER

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — A new turf disease, tentatively named chytridiomycete, has hit coastal golf courses in the Carolinas. The single-celled organism was devastating to some courses last fall as researchers were just starting to learn about the fungus. So far, the disease has been discovered attacking annual bluegrass, ryegrass and *Poa trivialis*.

There's still debate on what to call the disease. "It's been found out West for the



Advanced symptoms of the chytrid disease on a *Poa annua* green (California).

past five years, but it's new to us here in the Carolinas. It's still new throughout the country," said Dr. Bruce Martin, plant pathologist at Clemson University. "We cannot call it the chytrid which is the slang term that's been going around. One idea is to name it rapid blight. When it is active, it can destroy a green in a week."

The disease currently is found in eight

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## Bonita Bay recertified with Audubon Int'l

NAPLES, Fla. — Bonita Bay Club East's two golf courses, The Cypress and The Sabal, recently earned recertification as Audubon International signature sanctuaries.

"Recertification is not automatic, and initial designation is not permanent," said Dennis Gilkey, president and CEO of the Bonita Bay Group. "It is conferred every two years if the developer shows ongoing commitment to the environment."

Each year, a comprehensive report is submitted to Audubon International that details the environmental work done during the previous year. "We present information about projects planned for the next year, our efforts to protect the native wildlife population, and our work to limit pesticide use," said Jim Schilling, director of golf course operations here at the facility.

The report also addresses ongoing habitat enhancement and educational programs that teach club members and the community at large about the environment, course maintenance and the ways golf courses can be good neighbors.

### GOING NATIVE

During 2000, the club replaced a total of two acres of golf course turf with native grasses and natural vegetation, enhanced an acre of habitat and natural areas near the golf courses and eliminated 15 sprinkler heads and adjusted 50 more, resulting in additional irrigation water savings.

"The most recent 2001 project removed 29,500 square feet of grass that needed

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## Etchells takes Golfturf division independent from the Nicklaus Companies

TEQUESTA, Fla. — Ed Etchells, who ran the Golfturf division of the Nicklaus Companies, has taken the operation private and created his own agronomic consulting and turfgrass maintenance firm, Greens Management Co., LLC.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the team I have assembled, and for me, personally," said Etchells, who will serve as CEO and president of Greens Management. "I'm grateful for the many years I have been associated with Jack Nicklaus and Nicklaus Design, but this is an opportunity for me to grow something of my own."

The Golfturf division of Greens Management will become the preferred vendor of

Nicklaus Design and will assume all the current maintenance consulting contracts, but they also will market their services to other design firms and groups.

"We will actively engage other architects and expand our consulting role with other clubs, while still servicing Nicklaus Design clients throughout the world," explained Etchells. "We also will continue to service the European PGA Tour and keep other corporate marketing relationships intact."

Among those relationships to be contin-

ued is exclusive support of Nicklaus Designs partnership between Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products — a partnership which began in 1991 and will continue through at least 2005.

For the past 20 years, Etchells has been president of Golfturf, a division of Nicklaus Designs. He has consulted for more than 75 clubs worldwide. Joining Greens Management will be long-time agronomists David McIntosh and Ed Hodnett.

Greens Management specializes in de-

veloping and implementing grassing plans, irrigation plans, golf course improvement programs and pest management programs. The company's services include: planning and development; agronomy, construction and planting; maintenance and grow-in services; and golf course improvement.



### Bay Hill

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to the soil right away. We were able to open the first nine holes for play in just three weeks," said Anderson.

"The greens are doing very well," he continued. "The ceramic soil amendment helps resist compaction and aids in retention of water and nutrients to keep the grass healthier. It seems to help grass respond quicker after stress, such as a wet spell or really dry conditions."



The old sod was shaved off and the top four to five inches of soil was dug out.

Using the Profile product isn't new for Bay Hill. They used the soil amendment six years ago when the nine-hole Charger Course was rebuilt. "It was still kind of a new concept, but we wanted something that kept the greens looking better," Anderson said. "We had used peat before, but that was about the extent of our experience with soil amendments. We decided to try the inorganic material."

While the sand/peat mix improves water and nutrient retention, chemical and physical changes that develop in the soil over time can cause new problems, including a build-up of "black layer" that inhibits water percolation and soil oxygen levels. Inorganic soil amendments do not break down over time, nor do they cause chemical changes in the soil make-up.

The product worked well enough that Bay Hill crews continue to use 10 percent Profile in their greens topdress mix after every aeration. "We incorporate it into all of our construction projects now, whether its tees, bunker faces, or new drainage ways," said Anderson.

While the initial investment was significant, Anderson believes it has paid off in the long run, by improving the root zone and the entire soil profile. "Analyzing both costs and benefits, it is our opinion that the product has paid for itself," he said. ■

Gary Burchfield is a freelance writer living in Lincoln, Neb.

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