



## BRIEFS

### ENVIRONMENTAL GOLF PROMOTES LINDSEY

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf Industries Inc. has named Curt Lindsey superintendent at The Plantation of Leesburg in Leesburg, Fla. Lindsey, who has been with Environmental since 1995, was promoted from assistant superintendent at The Plantation.



Curt Lindsey

### PTI HIRES TIDWELL FOR FARMLINKS

FAYETTEVILLE, Ala. — Pursell Technologies Inc. (PTI) has hired John Tidwell as superintendent for FarmLinks, PTI's 18-hole research and demonstration course opening next spring. He will work with Tim Lacy, director of grounds and golf, to oversee the remainder of construction.



John Tidwell

## CourseCo develops turfgrass program for inner city kids

By ANDREW OVERBECK

OAKLAND, Calif. — As part of its redevelopment of Oakland's Metropolitan Golf Links, CourseCo has developed the Oakland Turfgrass Education Initiative.

CourseCo created the program in partnership with Castlemont High School, Merritt College and various organizations including Future Farmers of America (FFA), the United States Golf Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

"We are hoping that five or six years down the road we will have some kids coming out of this program that we can hire in management positions," said CourseCo principal Ray Davies. "The real goal of the program is to open doors to the green industry for inner city kids in Oakland. They don't even look at the green industry as a career opportunity."

"We are trying to take advantage of the kids' interest in Tiger Woods and the fact that we are building a new golf course down the road and tie that all into the program," he continued.

Creating a community service program was part of Oakland's contract conditions for the Metropolitan Golf Links (MGL) project. "They wanted to have us give

internships as a social welfare thing," Davies said. "But I decided to go bigger because I knew about the initiatives that the FFA and GCSAA were taking to develop a national teaching golf and turf management program and I wanted to get



Students check out the putting green at Monarch Bay GC in San Leandro.

one started in the inner city."

As a result, Davies spent two years developing the program even though CourseCo had yet to win the bid for the 40-year lease for the MGL from the city. CourseCo is paying \$5 million up front for the construction of the Johnny Miller and Fred Bliss-designed course and will pay city \$30 million to \$40 million in rent over the course of the lease in exchange for all operating revenues. Work on the course started this spring and Davies projects an opening in spring 2003.

With the idea in hand, Davies approached Castlemont High School's Eric Edgerly,

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### Editorial Focus: Turf & Seed

## Rough notes: Spring Creek converts

By ANDREW OVERBECK

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Though the private Spring Creek Ranch Country Club here is just three years old, the facility is tearing up its disease-prone fescue roughs in favor of new Palisades zoysiagrass.

"We had a blend of Trailblazer and Lancer 2 fescue and we have fought



All lake banks, greens and bunker complexes were sodded with Palisades at Spring Creek Ranch. The sixth hole is pictured above.

Pythium and brown patch from the start," said superintendent Michael Dieckhoff. "Nine months out of the year it was great but the three months that we had most of our member play it was 60 percent at best. We gave it one more year and then came to the harsh realization that there is no amount of money that will make it acceptable for play in the summertime."

Dieckhoff estimated the cost of water, fertilizer, fungicides and labor to keep the fescues going ran about \$300,000 a year. Converting to Palisades zoysiagrass will cost the club \$400,000, but Dieckhoff expects to recoup that in cost savings

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## Cleaning intakes helps reduce pump station repairs

By KEVIN ROSS

It is easier to see problems that occur on the surface, but because those that lurk underwater or underground are harder to predict, they deserve more attention. One such area that should be dealt with regularly is the pump house wet well and intake piping.

After years of use, intake screens can become clogged and the intake piping and wet well can become contaminated with silt. Most golf course managers will agree that the most important part of the golf course starts with the pump house. So, this is a great place to investigate what lurks below and address it on a preventive basis.

There are diving companies throughout the United States that will do this type of investigative work. One company, American Underwater Services (AUS), of Fort Worth, Texas, has made a niche for itself specializing in desiltation of wet wells and intakes.

"Thousands of dollars are spent annually on pump station repairs and replacements that could often be eliminated by removing accumulated sediment, rocks, and other debris

from wet wells or pump basins," said Anthony DiIulio, president of AUS.

DiIulio, who has a team of former offshore divers that also services power plants and big dams, got into the golf business five years ago when it was contacted by a course in Houston. "We had never really thought about the golf market, and now it is 70 percent of our business," DiIulio said.

Companies like AUS can prevent such disasters by a thorough inspection and cleaning of the intake screen, piping and wet well. AUS has built special equipment that allows them to move a tremendous amount of silt in a short period of time.

A 2,500-gpm hydraulic trash pump is the principle cleaning unit used. The unit rolls into the pond (like a mini ATV) and is positioned at the opening of the wet well intake. Once the diver has removed the intake screen, he then fishes a six-inch suction hose through the intake pipe



A diver from AUS entering a wet well

and removes all rocks, sediment, leaves, and other debris from within the line. When the hose reaches the wet well, the diver will exit the pond and climb into the wet well to vacuum out the debris and silt. When this is complete, the diver returns to the pond to

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## Rutgers unveils new turf management degree program

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Rutgers University and the Cook College Office of Continuing Education along with the Center for Turfgrass Science has announced its 2002/2003 Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School.

The course is presented in two 10-week sessions over a two year period. During the program students will learn the technical skills required for all superintendents including turfgrass establishment, maintenance of greens and tees, botany and physiology of turfgrass and ornamentals, and weed identification. The course will also cover management and computer and communication skills. The program is recommended for superintendents, assistant superintendents, irrigation technicians and mechanics that have a minimum of two years working in golf turf management.

The fall session will be held Oct. 7 - Dec. 13 and the winter session will be held Jan. 6 - March 14, 2003. Applications are due by Aug. 1. For more information, contact: (732) 932-9271 or e-mail ocpe@aesop.rutgers.edu.



Editorial Focus: Turf & Seed

## Lawrence learning to manage TifSport at TPC at Wakefield

By ANDREW OVERBECK

RALIEGH, N.C. — When the PGA Tour was trying to decide which fairway turf to use at the TPC at Wakefield Plantation here, they wanted a turf that would provide the best tournament conditions for the Carolina Classic, a Buy.com Tour event that is held at the course each year in mid-May.

Superintendent Todd Lawrence and

PGA Tour officials decided to go with TifSport after examining zoysiagrass and other bermudagrass varieties because they heard it had improved cold tolerance.

TifSport, which was developed by Wayne Hanna at the University of Georgia's Coastal Plains Experiment Station and released



Todd Lawrence

for commercial use in 1997, was bred specifically to push the northern bermudagrass limits for golf courses.

"Bermudagenerally does well in the Raleigh area but about every four or five years, there can be a problem with winter kill, so we thought we should go with a grass that has more cold

tolerance," said Lawrence.

TifSport has performed well for Lawrence and has greened up well for the tournament.

"We have had no problems over the past three years with winter kill and it seems to green up a little earlier than 419 bermudagrass does," he said. "The green up starts at the same time as 419 in about

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## Spring Creek Ranch

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after two or three years.

The owners, Dr. David Meyer and his son Rob, decided on Palisades after much deliberation. Dr. Meyer wanted the contrast of green roughs while the Meyer zoysiagrass fairways were dormant in the wintertime and Rob wanted a more playable warm season turf. The two compromised, keeping 20 acres of the fescue mix, which would be allowed to go native, and just replacing 65 acres of rough with Palisades.

### AN 'AWESOME ROUGH'

According to Dieckhoff, Palisades, which was developed by Dr. Milt Engelke at Texas A&M, made the cut because of its aggressive growing habits and softer texture.

"It is very fast growing," said Dieckhoff. "We have had sod down on one greens complex for six days now and already the seams are disappearing. It also does really well in the shade."

Winstead Turf Farms, which owns the rights to Palisades in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, is supplying the turf for Spring Creek.

"This is the first big job that we have done since planting our first crop of Palisades in 1999," said Winstead Turf Farms owner Bobby Winstead. "It will be an awesome rough for those guys. It has better shade tolerance, is not as prone to thatch and is less susceptible to patch diseases."

Work on the front nine at Spring Creek started at the end of March and Dieckhoff was scheduled to wrap up work at the end of June when he will start on the back nine.

Greens and bunker surrounds and lake banks are being sodded and the rest will be plugged with two-inch-by-two-inch plugs.

### THE CONVERSION PROCESS

The first phase of the conversion process involved killing off the old fescue stands. A week after the initial application of Roundup, the crew came in and scalped the turf down to an inch and then applied Roundup again to clean up any turf that was missed the first time. Then Dieckhoff brought in a flail mower to get it down to dirt and expose the sandcap. A three-quarter-inch hollow tine aerifier run in tight circles prepared the seedbed and an application of Ronstar pre-emergent herbicide finished the job.

Dieckhoff brought in Morrison, Tenn.-based the Turf Co. to handle stripping work around the bunkers and other sensitive areas.

With the sodding done on the front nine,



Six days after hitting the ground, root growth exceeded one and a half inches.

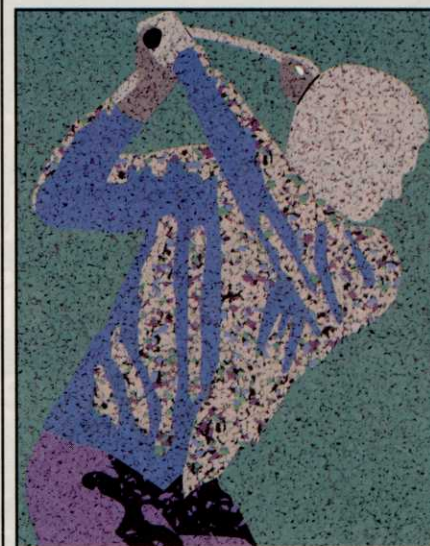
Dieckhoff's attention turned to the plugging process. The club went with plugs because sprigs would have had a harder time establishing since the sandcap would

have diminished water retention.

"Establishment is the big thing here, we will keep them wet, but we are already cutting back on the amount of fertilization we thought we would have to

give them," said Dieckhoff. "Instead of half a pound of nitrogen a week, we are going with half a pound every three weeks. It also doesn't take as much water as we thought. Initially we will give the plugs three minutes of water every hour, but after two to three weeks we will back off."

The conversion process will be completed this summer and Dieckhoff expects to have 80 to 90 percent coverage by the end of September and full coverage by the end of the year. ■



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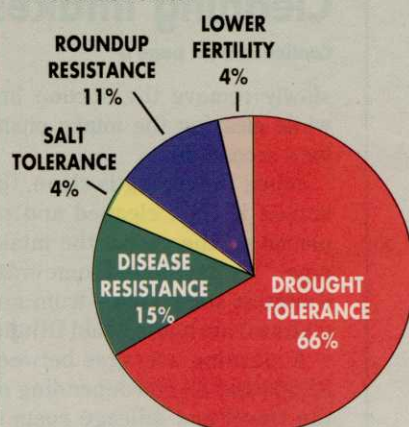
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