



BRIEFS

LOCHMERE GC HIRES GENE CREWS

CARY, N.C. — Lochmere Golf Course has hired Gene Crews to oversee all course maintenance and upgrading activities at the club. He will be in charge of improving the sand traps, fairways and drainage systems at the semi-private layout owned and operated by ClubCorp Golf of North Carolina, a subsidiary of Club Corp USA. Crews has already implemented drainage work by installing new French drains and has made improvements to the bunkers.



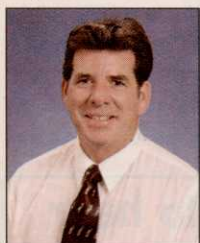
Gene Crews

SCOFFIELD JOINS REDTAIL LANDING

EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada — Allan Scoffield has joined RedTail Landing Golf Club as superintendent. Scoffield, a graduate from the Turfgrass Management program at Olds College, previously worked at Vancouver Golf Club. RedTail Landing, which was designed and is being built by Sid Puddicombe Associates, is currently under construction and is slated to open in spring 2003. In addition to the 18-hole, par 72 golf course, the project will feature a 19-acre learning facility and an 18-hole putting course.

TAYLOR JOINS WOODCREEK GC

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Golf has appointed Glynne Taylor superintendent at Woodcreek Golf Course in Modesto. Taylor, an employee of Environmental Industries, Inc. since 1981, previously served as superintendent at The Links at River Lakes Ranch in Bakersfield where he was responsible for the grow-in and long-term maintenance. At Woodcreek, Taylor will manage the business unit dedicated to golf course maintenance and will begin the efforts to improve the overall golf course maintenance operations. Taylor is a graduate of Pierce College with a degree in agronomy and ornamental horticulture.



Glynne Taylor

SurfRax system simplifies wastewater cleanup

By ANDREW OVERBECK

STUART, Fla. — Robert Akre and his company Terra kinetics have developed a low-cost, low-maintenance system to deal with wastewater from golf course washdown areas. The system is completely gravity fed and has no mechanical parts or filters that need to be maintained.

To date the company's SurfRax water protection wash rack system has been installed at two Florida courses and Akre is eager to expand Terra kinetics' geographical reach.

The system, which Akre and his partners developed over the last two years, uses existing technology to clean equipment wash down wastewater.

"SurfRax is a gravity fed system that takes the waste stream from an elevated wash pad and sends it through a series of

collection baskets to filter out sand and grass clippings," said Akre. "Hydrocarbon absorption pads collect any oil or grease and the water eventually ends up in a dry phytoremediation retention area."

The 600-square-foot retention area absorbs the cleaned water, which is then filtered through an installed soil matrix and drains away. So far Akre and his team have installed paspalum turf to act as the final filter.

According to Akre, the system costs \$25,000 to install and requires minimal yearly maintenance. The bas-

kets need to be emptied daily and the hydrocarbon pads, which cost \$40 a piece, need to be changed every six months. In comparison, said Akre, a closed-loop water recycling system can cost between \$40,000

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An installed SurfRax system at Miles Grant CC

Golf courses can coexist with diving raptors

By JAMES W. PARKER, Ph.D.

All good raptor parents will dive at perceived predators when they think their nests are threatened. Now that some species are adapting to urban environments, it is clear that golf courses and nearby areas can be preferred nesting habitat for species like red-tailed buzzard-hawks and, most of all, in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico, the Mississippi kite.

Since the late 1970s, these sleek, gray and black, falcon-shaped raptors have gained fame and misfortune at the hands of humans because of their inclination to nest in large colonies on golf courses and, sometimes, to defend their nests aggressively. What is going on when



Roosting Mississippi kites

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Drought persists in East, intensifies out West

By ANDREW OVERBECK

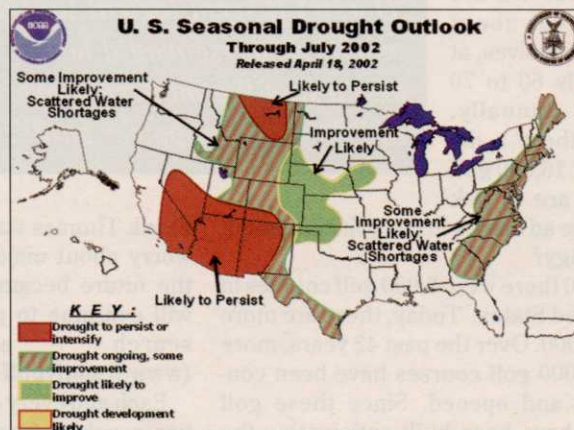
SACO, Maine — According to a report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center, drought conditions are likely to persist until mid-summer on the East Coast and well into August in certain areas of the Southwest.

NOAA officials said in mid-April that wetter weather had improved reservoir storage and well levels along the Eastern Seaboard, but that severe to extreme drought caused by rainfall deficits ranging from nine to 12 inches will cause water shortages to last through July.

Out West, a near-record dry winter season has caused drought to develop or intensify from southern California to western New Mexico and northward into parts of Nevada, Utah and Colorado. Cities in New Mexico and parts of Colorado are already considering water restrictions and the entire area could be extremely vulnerable to wildfires this summer.

WATER RESTRICTIONS MULTIPLY

The drought situation has imposed numerous watering restrictions (based on yearly or monthly water use averages) on golf courses along the East Coast. The following reduc-



Drought conditions are gripping large portions of the country.

tions have been mandated in each state: In 26 counties in Pennsylvania courses have been forced to cut water use by 30 percent, New Jersey by 50 percent, Connecticut by 20 percent, and central Maryland by 10 percent.

Speaking at a Maine Golf Course Superintendent's meeting April 23, Dave Oatis and Jim Skorulski, United States Golf Association agronomists for the Northeast region, said drought

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Clopyralid use on courses protected in Calif. and Wash.

By ANDREW OVERBECK

INDIANAPOLIS — In response to the California Department of Pesticide Regulations' (CDPR) decision to cancel certain uses of clopyralid-containing herbicides, Dow AgroSciences and Riverdale Chemical Co. have notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of changes to product labels that will prohibit clopyralid's future use on California residential lawns.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) enacted a similar ban on clopyralid earlier this year. Both bans were prompted by reports that trace levels of the long-lasting herbicide were found in compost. The issue is especially important in California where many communities promote the recycling of grass clippings. While Dow AgroSciences' clopyralid herbicides have label restrictions on composting grass clippings treated with the product, it decided to prohibit home lawn use in order to head off a full-scale ban.

According to Dow AgroSciences spokesman Gary Hamlin, clopyralid products (Lontrel and Confront) can still be applied by golf courses in both states.

"The CDPR was focused on the residential use of clopyralid because a vast majority of golf courses don't compost clippings off site," said Hamlin. "In Washington state, they have also decided to exempt golf courses from the ban. However there is still some legislation pending in California."

The California Golf Course Superintendents Association (CGCSA) is currently lobbying

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

Dealing with diving raptors

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raptors (hawks, owls, and their talon-footed relatives) dive at golfers, and what can and should be done, and by whom?

Misunderstanding, fear, irritation and rarely minor injury, such as scratched scalps, have occurred in hundreds of incidents. Consequently, a lot of kites, nests and their contents have been "removed," sometimes fatally, illegally and unnecessarily. This human/kite conflict is not going to go away, and could expand to other states. Plus, diving by other raptors is similar to that of kites in most respects, except other species are not colonial or as numerous as kites, nor are they as likely to nest on or near golf courses.

Since I began my kite studies in 1968, I've found towns with more than 40 pairs of nesting kites, town roosts of more than 50 kites, and several golf courses with about 10 pairs. One, the Altus, Okla., Air Force base golf course, hosted 27 nesting pairs in summer 2000. In the late 1980s the management there established a positive, tolerant approach to the diving behavior. More recently, the approach has been more adversarial, resulting in the removal of dozens of nests and the killing of dozens of eggs.

RAPTOR FACTS

Diving occurs only when nestlings are present or when eggs are near hatching from mid/late June through July. A majority of nesting kites do not dive, a kite often prefers to attack certain people (color of clothing, smaller

size, etc.) or golf cars, and only rarely will more than one kite at a particular nest dive. Most dives are into the wind, and from behind a person. Only in a minority of cases will a person be hit on the head or shoulders. Kites have small toes and feet and weigh only 225-350 grams (about a half-pound), so they usually do no more than punch a person, knock off a hat, or disrupt a putt. Larger raptors could potentially inflict larger lacerations or punctures.

In most states Mississippi kites are not considered an endangered species, but are protected by both state and federal laws. Management should only be attempted by those with both knowledge of kite biology and the proper state and federal permits. For help with diving problems, one should contact local, state, federal or other wildlife biologists or game agents/wardens.

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

Education efforts should be strong, with much of the above kite biology being explained to citizens and organizations. Kites have the admirable quality of being able to adapt to how humans have changed habitat, and common sense, tolerance and simple solutions should be used. Often, reasonable people simply need to know enough about the kites to realize that adapting one's behavior eliminates virtually all real danger.

For changes in behavior advise people to: become aware of the location of the nest and the usual flight paths of the kites; wear sturdy hats; carry, but do

not wave an object, such as a golf club near and above the head; watch the kite as it dives and wave arms vigorously when the kite gets close; and most importantly, reroute one's walking as much as possible to avoid the nest tree.

Don't bother with nets, noise-makers, or other "repellents," including models of large owls or nesting kites placed in trees; these require too much time and trouble, and are usually ineffective.

KITE MANAGEMENT

Rarely, active management is required only if it appears that diving is unusually problematic or that illegal citizen action to stop diving is likely to result. If all else fails, nestling(s), preferably at least one-week old, can be removed from a nest by legally authorized professionals, and the nest destroyed. Nestlings should be transferred to a nest of another kite pair in a location where diving will not be an issue, or to a suitable wildlife rehabilitator. Kites will accept foster nestlings and, with proper regard for nest and nestling sizes, will usually be able to raise three nestlings, sometimes four. It is best not to remove eggs because kites at such nests will likely re-nest very quickly, sometimes nearby. ■

James W. Parker, Ph.D. is a raptor ecologist and ecological educator who has studied Mississippi kites since 1968. He operates Aerie East Environmental Education Programs and Foundation in Maine, and has published both popular and scientific manuscripts and book chapters on the kite, other raptors and diving by raptors. He can be contacted at 207-778-9437 or aerieeast@somtel.com.

New utility vehicle offerings

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Sargisson. "The TerraSport will be a good fit for the golf and sports turf market."

UPGRADED POWER AND BRAKES

While Toro does not have any brand new products this year, the company has made significant improvements to two of its existing models.

Toro is now offering the Heavy-Duty Workman 3200 and 4200 models with 31-hp gas Briggs and Stratton Daihatsu engines and the 3300 and 4300 models with 26.5-hp diesel engines. The 3100 now comes with a 23-hp Kohler engine.

"The new engines increase its ability to tow and pull loads," said Neil Borenstein, Toro's

marketing manager for vehicles. "The total payload is now up over 2,700 pounds."

The Workman 2110 also features extra cargo capacity thanks to new hydraulic front brakes



Toro added hydraulic front brakes to the 2110

and a more powerful 16-hp Briggs and Stratton Vanguard engine. "The unit can carry 1,200 pounds, where in the past it could just take 800 pounds," said Borenstein. ■

SurfRax

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and \$80,000 to install and are more costly to maintain.

Harry Hansen, superintendent at Miles Grant Country Club in Stuart, installed the SurfRax system last fall after hearing about the one Terra kinetics put in at Fort. Lauderdale (Fla.) Country Club.

"I had a finite amount of money and was upgrading my chemical mixing and loading and wash rack area. We decided to go with SurfRax because I could get a lot more for the money than I could with a

recycled system," said Hansen.

According to Hansen, the simplicity was a driving factor in the decision, but more importantly, he was attracted because the system meets all of Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) guidelines. Akre is working with the DEP to gain compliance certificates for each system that Terra kinetics installs.

"Before we had no system other than to just go outside and wash it off. No one is forcing us to do this, but if you have a complaint then you have problem," Hansen said. "I wanted to stay ahead of the game." ■

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK...

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