



## 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.



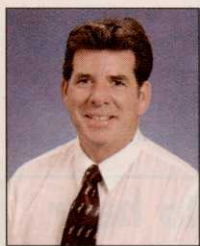
Gene Crews

### 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



An installed SurfRax system at Miles Grant CC

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## 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

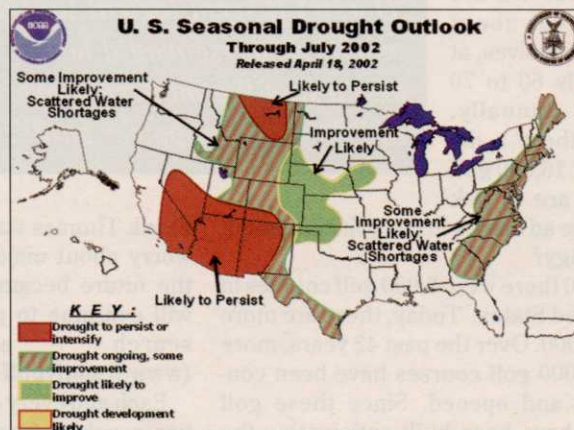
SACO, Maine — According to a report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center, drought conditions are likely to persist until mid-summer on the East Coast and well into August in certain areas of the Southwest.

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



## Cahoon Plantation achieves Audubon certification

CHESAPEAKE, Va.—The Isles Golf Club at Cahoon Plantation, maintained by International Golf Maintenance, has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

"For integrated pest management, our focus was to improve soil and turf health, which produces a plant that is better able to withstand stress," said Tyler Minamy, superintendent. "To do this, we instituted the use of slow-release fertilizers and created no-spray zones."

To meet the other Audubon requirements, Minamy reduced irrigated turf area by installing part-circle heads and using wetting agents; reduced run-off by installing vegetative buffers; increased wildlife habitat by naturalizing a 10-acre area; and started an education program with Tidewater Commu-



Tyler Minamy

nity College.

Cahoon Plantation, a public course designed Ault, Clark and Associates, Ltd. of Kensington, Md., is the eighth course in Virginia and the 376th course in the world to receive certification.

## Clopyralid use protected

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the state assembly to protect golf course use. According to Jim Hustling, the association's government relations chairman and superintendent at Woodbridge (Calif.) Golf and Country Club, bill AB 2356 has been significantly watered down since its introduction and will probably

not threaten golf courses.

"We took our lead from Washington state [on the clopyralid ban]. They rallied first and gave us a bookmark on where to start," Hustling said. "The language of the bill has been amended and many of the clopyralid references have been removed. We have made the case that golf

courses do not compost grass clippings, so it looks like we will still be able to use the product."

While clopyralid use in California and Washington appears secure for now, Hamlin said superintendents should heed the label. "If superintendents are using clopyralid and sending clippings off site or are composting clippings on site, they need to be aware of the label restrictions," he said. ■

## Drought

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will be the number one issue for golf courses this summer.

"Last year the Northeast had the worst winter damage ever, and this year we are having the earliest spring ever," said Skorulski. "But we are also setting records for some of the driest weather ever. Although we have had some good precipitation recently, many places are still far behind."

Oatis said regulators are already checking up on golf courses and that superintendents need to follow the law or risk damaging the industry's image. "The legislation during the last drought in 1999 was poorly written but this year many states understand golf course needs," he said. "Regulators have already gone out and seen major violations, which is embarrassing. It is imperative that we follow these restrictions."

In light of this, Skorulski urged courses to take water conservation steps such as raising the height of cut and refraining from planting any new trees or annuals.

Of the superintendents in attendance at the Maine meeting, none admitted to having severe water problems, but many said they had already put water conservation plans in place in preparation for a tough summer. ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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