BRIEFS

FOX NAMED SUPERINTENDENT AT NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. — Brad Fox has been named superintendent at the New Jersey National Golf Club, a high-end, public facility here. Fox earned a B.S. in Turfgrass Science from Penn State University before taking a position at the Bethpage (N.Y.) State Park courses. He has spent the last 18 months at Bethpage learning the profession under superintendent Craig Currier. New Jersey National is managed by Empire Golf, a subsidiary of Bergstol Enterprises.

Brad Fox

SRO'S BENTGRASS INITIATIVE PROGRAM PAYS OFF WITH REBATES

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Seed Research of Oregon has contributed over $1,000 to local golf course superintendents associations as part of a bentgrass rebate program. Thirty golf courses and their distributors participated in the 2001 Bentgrass Initiative Program. SRO made the contributions to the superintendent's choice of GCSAA-affiliated association, based on qualifying Seed Research brand grass seed purchased in 2001. Qualifying products included: creeping bentgrasses SR 1020, Providence, SR 1119, Brighton, Dominant and Dominant Plus, colonial bentgrass SR 7100, and velvet bentgrass SR 7200. The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association was the biggest beneficiary.

GOLF MANAGEMENT APPOINTS ZICKAFOOSE AT MARYLAND NATIONAL

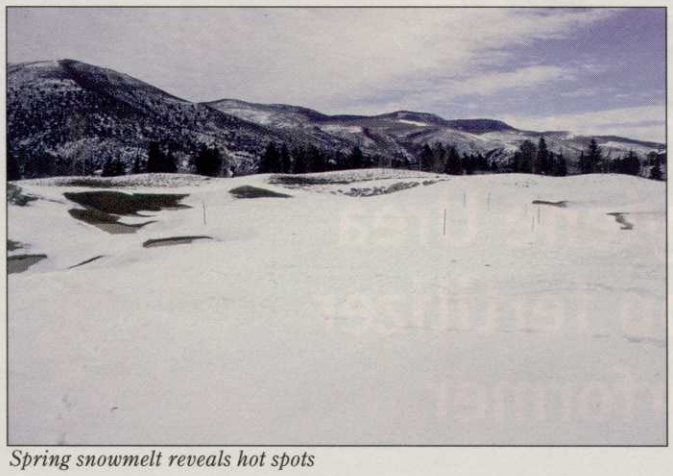
FREDERICK, Md. — Golf Management, Inc., based in Jacksonville, Fla., has appointed Brian Zickafoose superintendent at Maryland National Golf Course, an Arthur Hills-designed semi-private course opening July 2002 near Frederick, Md. Previous positions for Zickafoose include director of golf construction for T.A. Turner Construction Services of Gaitherburg, Md. Before that, he managed construction and grow-in of a Jack Nicklaus Signature-designed course for Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort in Cumberland, Md.

Spring snowmelt provides important maintenance hints

By KEVIN ROSS

One of the most important times of the year for a golf course superintendent is during the spring snowmelt period. Of foremost importance is observing what the ravages of winter have done to the fine turf areas of the golf course.

As the snow recedes, first thoughts are to analyze snow mold infection, ice-related damage, and possible desiccation. However, superintendents need to look beyond winter damage to see the hints this once-a-year phenomenon has to offer.



Spring snowmelt reveals hot spots

By watching snowmelt patterns, superintendents can quickly chart dry spots, wet spots, drainage patterns and animal damage on the course. This information is especially valuable if you are at a newly constructed facility or in your first year at an established course.

WATCH FOR HOT SPOTS

One of the most important set of observations is to identify hot spots on the golf course. Areas where the snow recedes first are usually an indicator of the "hottest" or "driest" spots on the golf course. The combination of the sun's angle to the slope of turf on the golf course is a very unused, but excellent way of charting those hot spots.

These charted areas can also be used in determining the water requirements or timing of irrigation. Turf areas that loose their snow cover first, will have a greater zone timing than areas loosing it later.

DRAINAGE CLUES

Drainage is also an area that should not go unnoticed. Low pockets and wet swale areas can be evaluated and mapped for future drainage installation projects. Other than heavy rainstorms, this is certainly the best time of year to identify these areas. It may even be better than a summer rain event, because the turf is not actively growing and the soil could still be frozen. These two factors can result in a much higher water run-off potential. With this increased run-off potential, areas can be noticed at this time that may not be during summer rain events.

ANIMAL DAMAGE

Another issue to watch is animal damage. For example, some golf courses have heavy vole infestations throughout the course, which can result in severe turfgrass destruction. Vole damage tends to be the highest in areas where snow cover lasts the longest. These areas can be charted and filed for potential future fall applications of animal repellants.

Many golf courses have deer or elk herds that take up residency during the winter period causing extensive turf and tree damage. Damage and migratory routes can be

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Audubon survey highlights golf course successes

By JOEL JOYNER

SELKIRK, N.Y. — Golf courses continue to improve their environmental performance, according to Audubon International's *2001 Managed Lands Survey for Golf*. The survey is comprised of more than 470 of the 2,000-plus golf courses enrolled in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) for golf courses. It revealed that courses are saving water, using less chemicals, and preserving more wildlife area.

The following are a few of the leading indicators:

- When examining water quality and water conservation efforts, 89 percent of courses that responded had improved their irrigation system or the way that water was applied to the site. As a result, these golf courses saved an estimated 1.9 million gallons of water per year, per course since joining ACSP – totaling over 500 million gallons per year. Likewise, 86 percent of golf course managers and superintendents have increased efforts to monitor water quality.
- In the area of chemical use reduction and safety, 82 percent of respondents reduced pesticide use while 75 percent reduced pesticide costs. Additionally, 92 percent of respondents used pesticides with

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Maine superintendents take steps to prevent ice damage

By ANDREW OVERBECK

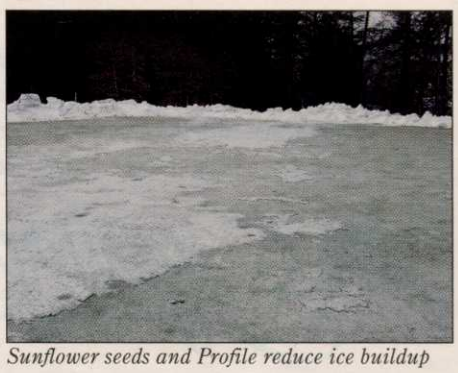
CUMBERLAND, Maine — After suffering major ice damage during the brutal winter of 2001, superintendents here are employing numerous techniques to keep their greens free of ice this year.

Jim Hodge

Last year, superintendent Jim Hodge lost all 18 of his greens at Val Halla Golf & Recreation Center. With five feet of snow last winter, and only a small layer of ice, Hodge thought he would get through to spring in good shape. But Mother Nature always surprises.

"We learned a big lesson last year," Hodge said. "It was a combination of a little bit of ice and the fluctuation of temperature. I didn't see turf for more than 120 days. That added up to a lot of turf loss."

This time around Hodge is not taking any chances. After 30 days of ice cover, he is plowing off the greens and melting the ice layer by applying either Profile soil amendment, black sunflower seeds, or pelletized gypsum and lime. Breaking up the ice allows air exchange and prevents widespread winterkill.



Sunflower seeds and Profile reduce ice buildup

"So far the Profile and sunflower seeds work best," he said. "Profile eats into the ice and doubles as a topdressing material. The sunflower seeds absorb sunlight and melt through the ice, but then I have a mess

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Editorial Focus: Hiring

Reduce turnover by implementing hiring plan

By RAYMOND DAVIES

Maintaining and managing a staff can be a challenging, but not an impossible task. By taking into account local demographics, developing a best worker profile, and discussing job responsibilities and goals, superintendents will be better prepared to handle employment issues and reduce turnover.

Raymond Davies

Hiring issues depend largely on local labor conditions. Many superintendents do not have a significant challenge because of modest or high unemployment or the availability of a large number of college students or active retirees. The main

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