MAINTENANCE



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.

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 GCSAAaffiliated 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.

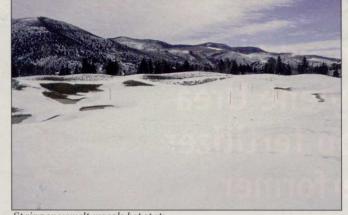
8 MARCH 2002

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-re-



Spring snowmelt reveals hot spots

lated damage, and possible desiccation. However, superintendents need to look beyond winter damage to see the hints this once-a-year phenomenon has to offer.

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

Continued on page 12

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 Continued on page 11

Reduce turnover by implementing hiring plan

By RAYMOND DAVIES

Editorial Focus: Hiring

Maintaining and managing a staff can be a challenging, but not an impossible task. By taking into account local de-

mographics, developing a best worker profile, and discussing job responsibilities and goals, superintendents will be better prepared to handle employment issues and reduce turnover. Hiring issues de-



pend 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

Continued on page 11 **GOLF COURSE NEWS**

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

to prevent ice damage

CUMBERLAND, Maine - After suffer-

ing major ice damage during the brutal

winter of 2001, superintendents here are

employing numerous techniques to keep

Maine superintendents take steps

Jim Hodge small layer of ice,

By ANDREW OVERBECK

their greens free of ice

this year.

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.



'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

Continued on page 12



RCGA supports environmental initiatives with donations

FDMONTON Alberta. Canada -- Two environmental initiatives have received a big boost thanks to a \$110,000 donation from the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA).

A check for \$75,000 was presented to the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation while the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary

System of Canada received \$35,000 during the RCGA's annual general meeting here at Edmonton's Fantasyland Hotel. "The sport of golf has enjoyed

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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incredible growth in recent years," said Stephen Ross, executive director of the RCGA. "However, that growth places increased importance on developing the game in an environmentally responsible manner. Both these programs work hard to protect and enhance our environment and we are proud to support them."

The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation (CTRF) funds turfgrass and environmental research at various universi-

Chicago credit giant

to finance golf

AT FINEGAN

ties and research facilities across Canada. The foundation's goal is to reduce maintenance requirements by improving turfgrass species and cultural practices. Institutions currently receiving CTRF support are Laval University, University of Guelph and Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

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The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada develops and administers environmental education programs for landowners. As many as 25 Canadian golf courses have become fully certified sanctuaries for wildlife, while another 170 courses are actively participating in the program. The RCGA's donation will assist in the ongoing environmental education program.

Ice damage Continued from page 8

to clean up in the spring."

At a price of \$16 for a 40-pound bag of Profile and \$8 a bag for a 50pound bag of sunflower seeds, the material costs are low.

Superintendent Scott Cybulski at Falmouth Country Club is having similar success with Profile. He uses one 40-pound bag per green and has made one application so far this year.

"It works right down through the ice and makes air holes in it," he said. "When it is above freezing it works really well. It turns the ice into a frozen margarita consistency."

While some are concerned that constant applications of Profile would cause the build up of a Profile "layer" in the soil, Hodge is not concerned.

"I am putting down such a light application," he said. "And with my verticutting and aerification it gets worked into the soil. I have also just done this twice this year. If I was putting down tons year after year, then I would worry."

Getting rid of the snow cover and the ice, however, does open the greens up to other problems, Hodge conceded.

"Exposed turfgrass is now susceptible to direct low temperature kill and desiccation," he said. "But at least I can see the turf and manage it."

The best case scenario at this point would be snowy weather. "We have had a lot of ice this winter," he said. "Some snow cover would help."

Snowmelt clues

Continued from page 8

analyzed, and future fencing and repellants can be planned.

Although not related to the snowmelt process, mice damage inhabiting irrigation controllers is another potential problem spot. Most manufacturers recommend that irrigation field satellites remain on during the winter period. These can generate small amounts of heat that mice cherish over the winter period. The resulting damage from wires being chewed can cause major headaches. Preventive measures such as putting mice bait inside these controllers can reduce this damage.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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