Native grass: it's a jungle out there

With the proliferation of native grass areas on golf courses, steps need to be taken to maintain playability. 

Meadowbrook Golf ups the ante

Don Rhodes has come aboard to handle the acquisition of up to $350 million in golf course assets through the company's new Honors Fund.

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Wetland issues delay Shelter Harbor project

Course to break ground after long permitting process, many 'significant' routing changes

An artist's rendition of the wetlands-challenged Shelter Harbor Golf Club.

Bycl Derek Rice

NEWPORT, R.I. — Nearly three years after the permit process commenced, Shelter Harbor Golf Club is set to break ground this month. Permitting in Rhode Island is usually difficult, said architect Michael Hurdzan, who designed the course. "We've worked in 30 or 40 states at this point, and I would say Rhode Island is the most difficult state to get permits in," Hurdzan said. "They have a very small parcel of ground that they fiercely protect." The major cause for the delays centered around the property's hundreds of acres of wetlands, Hurdzan said. "We went through the normal identification, avoidance and all that, but they would continually find more wetlands," Hurdzan said. "Each time we did a wetland survey, they would find more, so there was never a definitive wetland survey until someone finally said, 'Stop, we have to have a map that we work with.'" This was the most complicated and litigious permit process that we have been through. It was a large tract of land, it was in two towns and it had a lot of different issues," he added.

Another wetlands related issue continued on page 14

IGM expands westward

By Andrew Overbeck

CHAMPIONSgATE, Fla. — International Golf Maintenance (IGM) is expanding westward with the opening of new business development offices in Dallas and Phoenix. It is also moving its West Coast headquarters from Los Angeles to Las Vegas.

The contract maintenance company currently has four courses in the region and plans to add more.

"Our parent company, Meadowbrook Golf, is looking to acquire courses out West, so we thought it would be a good fit to increase our presence in these year-round golf markets," said IGM vice president Scott Zakany. "We had a presence out here, but our people were focusing on operations and business development at the same time.

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LandLogic puts GPS mapping in supers' hands

By Andrew Overbeck

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Technology entrepreneur Larry Robinson has rolled out an affordable and highly portable Global Positioning System (GPS)-based facilities management system to help superintendents become more efficient.

Robinson's company, LandLogic, gives superintendents the power to create a GPS map of their own courses that can easily be updated through a pocket PC. The company sends GPS mapping equipment to a course for 10 days, the superintendent and his staff map the course and then send the equipment back to LandLogic. The company creates the maps, loads them onto a desktop computer and a pocket PC and sends the package back to the course. The whole process takes around three weeks and costs $7,000.

"We realized that superintendents don't have accurate course maps because they are prohibitively expensive," said Robinson. "You can bring a GPS mapping firm out and easily spend $20,000 and still have to escort a technician who is unfamiliar with golf courses around the facility. We decided to build a mapping technology that was simple enough for courses to do it themselves and cut out the cost of the middle man."

The software is highly customizable, allowing users the ability to enter in exact information about each course feature. "You can tell it exactly what kind of irrigation & pump stations...8