

SUPPLIER BUSINESS



BRIEFS

PURSELL NAMES FAIRLY, PROMOTES HIGGINS

SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Pursell Technologies Inc. (PTI) has added Erle Fairly as director of Pursell Farms Tours and has promoted Dr. Jeff Higgins to executive director of business development. Fairly will handle all aspects of Pursell's PTI Tour, which brings in more than 1,000 golf course superintendents annually to tour Pursell Farms, a 3,000-acre education and recreation facility created to showcase the company's technology and product performance. Higgins, who was formerly in charge of the PTI Tour, will now work with other PTI staff in identifying new market opportunities and direct all research at FarmLinks, the 18-hole demonstration golf course at Pursell Farms.

FINN ADDS GRADY OUT WEST

CINCINNATI, Ohio — FINN Corp. has strengthened its sales and support staff in California and Nevada with the appointment of Mark Grady as manager of the northern California and northern Nevada territory. Grady will be responsible for direct sales for the entire line of FINN products in addition to providing support for the area's dealer network and end-users.

TRAPMASTER APPOINTS GROSCH

WRENS, Ga. — Terry Grosch has been appointed director of marketing for erosion-control fabric manufacturer TrapMaster. Grosch has worked in the golf industry for 30 years as a director of golf and golf professional and played a pivotal role in the development of the company's patent-pending bunker erosion-control product.

USG REVAMPS WEB SITE

CHICAGO — United States Gypsum Co. (USG) has updated its Web site (www.gypsumsolutions.com) to provide more comprehensive content and an enhanced interactive experience to its customers. The site offers new product highlights, market updates and applications and product usage sections.

Golftech develops greens usability mapping system

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CANTON, Ohio — Golftech has developed a greens analysis mapping system that helps courses determine the usability of their putting surfaces. The high-tech maps use GPS and robotic technology to quantify the relationship between slope and speed on a given green. The process identifies what percentage of the green can be used for hole locations.

The system, which has been evaluated by the USGA and used by several courses including Oakmont (Pa.) Country Club and Baltimore (Md.) Country Club, is particularly useful for helping older courses with contoured greens deal with increased green speeds.

"This is high-tech meets hole locations," said Golftech principal Steve Hatfield. "Courses can find more hole locations and then

we give them a map that shows hole locations as a percentage of greens area."

The accurate maps are a result of Golftech's wheeled robotic total station, which collects data every foot.

"At the second hole at Oakmont, we found that less than two percent of the green was pinable," said Hatfield.

"Once the USGA takes away the 12-foot inside perimeter on a green, they have less than one-half of a percent of the green that is usable for

hole locations. They have three options: play it and deal with the consequences, renovate the green or slow it down."

While no action was taken as a result of the test at Oakmont, the technology has been embraced at



Golftech's system uses GPS and robotic technology to create slope zone analysis maps.

Baltimore CC, where architect Keith Foster and builder McDonald and Sons used it to scale back slopes on three greens without altering their original character.

"We had three greens that had

severe slopes where we didn't have any pin spots," said superintendent Tim Kennelly about the 1926 A.W. Tillinghast-designed layout. "We had 9,000 square-foot greens that only had

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JustAir enters subsurface aeration fray

By ANDREW OVERBECK

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — After eight years working in the subsurface aeration installation business, Paul Tabor and Bill Fishburne have started JustAir, a division of Subsurface Technologies, based here. Both previously worked for the former Sub Air Inc., which has since been bought by a group of investors and renamed SubAir Systems (GCN, Jan. 2003).

"We started JustAir last year in the sports field market and in the past six months we have gotten into golf," said Fishburne.

With their combined field knowledge the pair has "built a better mousetrap" according to Fishburne.

"We have stainless steel vaults that are welded and are waterproof, we have redesigned the directional valving to be more efficient and achieve higher pressures and air volumes and we have stainless steel air and water separators that

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Greenside Injection unit customizes applications

By ANDREW OVERBECK

GLASTONBURY, Conn. — BioSafe Systems has developed a

Greenside Injection unit to provide economical and convenient chemical injection for problem greens. The system was developed as a device to supply Zeritol to keep greens clean of algae, bacterial and fungal disease, but can also be used to distribute other products labeled for chemigation.

"Everyone has a green that does not respond to their program, this allows superintendents to zero in on the needs of a problematic green," said John

Wynne, BioSafe's director of sales for the turf division. "Whether its algae, anthracnose or LDS, this



BioSafe's Greenside Injection system customizes applications.

unit gives them the ability to provide parts of a specialized program for that one micro-environment."

The below-ground unit is installed in an enclosed box that connects to existing irrigation piping. A control valve and Mazzei injector allows for scheduled and regulated applications that can be controlled through computerized irrigation systems.

"This is direct injection into the greenside loop and you can time the application at the front or the back end of the irrigation cycle," Wynne said.

The first prototype went in last year at Glastonbury Country Club here and another is being installed

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Eastman adds new hover model, wheeled mowers

By ANDREW OVERBECK

PORTLAND, Maine. — Eastman Industries has expanded on its Hover Mower product line and made its first entry into the wheeled mower category with two new models.

The company has been a strong player the floating mower market since being bought in 1999 by local businessman and former nuclear engineer Nicholas Nikazmerad. At that time, the company was known as Grass Craft, but Nikazmerad re-engineered the mowers and

changed the name to Hover Mower.

"We started from new," said Nikazmerad. "We redesigned the deck and impeller. About the only thing we didn't modify was the engine mount."

There are now three Hover Mower models, the newest being the model HM 19H4 that features a 5.5-hp 4-cycle Honda engine and a 19-inch deck.

"This engine was specifically engineered for

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Maps identify hole locations

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two or three pin spots. At 10 on the Stimpmeter they were too fast, almost unplayable. You could miss an 18-inch putt and have 18 feet coming back."

The goal of the renovation work was to gain an additional three to four pin placements per green by softening the slopes while still retaining the general shape and feel of the greens. As a result, seven- and eight-percent grades were reduced to three- or four-percent grades, but not all parts of the green were modified. This is where Golftech's technology proved priceless.

"We took the slope analysis maps and identified what we could do with minimum disturbance," said Foster. "Once we shot grades we calculated what we were raising and cutting and then blended it all back in together. It doesn't look like I did anything, it all blends in so well."

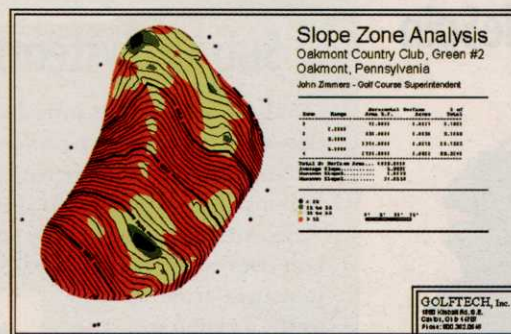
The push-up greens were carefully dismantled, and the existing sod and profile mix was put back exactly where it was before the renovation work began.

"You would be a fool to build a new green," said Foster. "The work is too good. This allows you

to respect the early design and modify it ever so slightly and seamlessly."

The new greens will be ready for play later this month.

Golftech's maps not only made the renovation process easier, they also helped Kennelly sell the



The green areas on this map identify possible hole locations.

project to his members.

"There were a lot of members who thought we were destroying the greens and that they would never be the same," he said. "We needed something to show them what adding the cupping space would do because there was nothing under five-

percent slope on the green.

When we finish, we are going to do another series of maps to show them how we have softened areas up. We will be able to put pins in places they have not been in 20 years."

Golftech charges \$1,500 per green for the mapping service and offers discounts for courses that map than seven or more greens. ■

Greenside Injection

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at Doylestown Country Club in Warrington, Pa.

"We are putting in a new irrigation system right now," said Doylestown CC superintendent Paul Bevan. "We have one green that gets anthracnose so we are going to try the injector system on that hole. We may put more out there if need be."

Bevan said the system will not only allow him to focus on his trouble green, but it will also save labor.

"If I have to go out there and spray one green, I have to have a guy mix it up, go out and spray it and then rinse out three times," he said. "It ends up being a two- or three-hour ordeal. Also, the injector takes it right out of the bottle, so you are not limited to using Zeritol, you could also use a wetting agent to control hot spots. It's a neat deal."

The Greenside Injector costs \$650, takes half a day to install and is customized to each individual green.

"Once you figure out the size of the green, how long the heads are spinning and how many gallons are coming out of the head, the injector is sized for the correct ratio of gallons of concentrate to gallons of water," said Wynne. ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Groundbreaking Achievement



Recognizing Environmental Excellence in Golf Course Remodeling and Renovation.

Golf Course News announces a new awards program to recognize the outstanding remodeling or renovation of a golf course. This award will highlight the exceptional collaboration among the golf course architect, builder and superintendent, with special emphasis on environmental enhancement.

With golf course renovation projects on the rise, many organizations and golf courses today are setting ambitious goals for meeting environmental standards. Golf Course News is proud to recognize this effort and will encourage proposals from recently remodeled golf courses and coordinate a panel of judges for this achievement.

Awards will be presented in a gala ceremony at the GCSAA annual meeting to the golf course and its superintendent. Special recognition will be given to the golf course architect, builder, and participating vendors.

Look for details in our June issue on how you can nominate a golf course remodeling project that deserves recognition.

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