

# Idea file

## Let fish eat up your algae problems

When the Jack Nicklaus Golf Center just north of Cincinnati, Ohio, suffered a severe problem with algae clogging its many water hazards, superintendent Richard B. Craig came up with a rather unusual — but successful — solution. He introduced German carp from Lake Erie to the courses' lakes to eat up the vegetation.

After an initial success with a 5-acre lake, Craig and his crew stocked the others, at a rate of 400 to 450 pounds of carp per acre. They paid 21 cents per pound for the fish and have not had to restock in 3 years. The only limitations Craig noted were that the water must be 3 feet deep, and that the fish are not very tolerant of insecticides.

## Model sand trap teaches rules of golf

Fred King, golf professional at Andrews AFB Golf Course, Washington, D.C., has installed a miniature sand bunker in his shop. In it are a mannequin golfer and bits of debris of various kinds to illustrate which things may be removed and which may not be touched when playing out of a trap. A small sign asks: "Do you know the rule?"

The kidney-shaped trap is 6 feet long and 3 to 4 feet wide. The bottom is plywood and the sides are sheet metal, 4 inches high, painted brown. Inside is regular bunker sand. The debris (changed from time to time) includes a pine cone, matchbook, piece of paper, stone, leaves, cigarette wrapper and butt, twig, bottle cap, and piece of glass. "It helps create interest in the rules — and the shop," says King.

## Seniors association boosts clubs' income

Some 28 golf clubs in Maryland have increased their revenue through activities of the new Maryland Interclub Seniors Golf Association. MISGA was organized under the leadership of President Al Hagen of Lakewood Country Club to promote golf fellowship and activity through organizing social golf "mixers," in which the clubs arrange home-and-home golf tournaments with seniors from four or five other clubs.

Green fees are waived, but clubs have derived as much as \$5,000 in revenue in one season from golf cars, pro shop prizes, and food and beverage service. And it makes club membership more attractive to senior members.

## Fivesomes actually may speed up play

At most golf courses, fivesomes are strictly forbidden — but not at Bucky Thornbury's Pasadena Golf Course in St. Petersburg, Fla. Disturbed at the number of singles waiting at the first tee to join up with a threesome, Thornbury tested the speed of fivesomes playing behind foursomes. According to Stu Schneider of *Florida Golfweek*, Thornbury found that 18 holes took between 4 hours 10 minutes and 4 hours 30 minutes — and "the fivesomes usually had to wait on the people ahead anyway."

Following the stipulation that fivesomes must include at least one golf car, they play at the same speed as four walkers. Often, Thornbury said, there are two cars in the group — or even three. Wouldn't that perk up your golf car revenues?

## Give new employees a thorough orientation

You can save yourself a lot of trouble (and maybe grief) later on if you take the time when hiring a new employee to give a thorough orientation to the job and to your golf facility.

Ted Woehrle, 1977 president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and superintendent at Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan, has a set procedure he follows with new course maintenance workers, but it could work just as well with pro shop or clubhouse employees. Woehrle introduces the employee to other workers and supervisors, takes him or her on a tour of the building (and the golf course, if possible), shows the person a job description and the club's organization chart, and discusses working hours and overtime, salaries and promotions, grievance procedures, conduct and dress, policies for absences and termination.

When the person is hired, he or she is asked to sign a note stating that all of the above were covered.



## Advertise in company, trade union magazines

Daily fee course owners near large urban areas should place more advertising in trade union and company magazines to attract golfers, says Dr. Lewis Moncrief, a professor in the department of park and recreational resources at Michigan State University.

He says these specialized publications could easily be read more often than newspapers or telephone directory ads by potential golfers. The professor says he believes little analysis is made by owners about their advertising media, and suggests they survey their customers during different periods of the season to determine how their golfers found out about the golf course.

## Directory lists data on 1,600 golf courses

Golf businessmen taking golf vacations will be interested in the second edition of *Gene Sarazen's World Golf Directory*, a 208-page, magazine-size guide to 1,600 golf courses in North America, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the South Pacific. In most cases, listings include scorecards, course layouts, fees, and accommodations. The book also contains feature articles on 13 specific courses.

To obtain a copy of the Directory, send \$7.50 to: World Golf Directory, Dept. GB, 7119 Exfair Rd., Bethesda, MD 20014.

## New greens require steady supervision

Superintendents overseeing the construction of greens this spring should make certain that the base is graded to the same contours as the finished grade, says H.E. "Al" Frenette, superintendent at the Peachtree Golf Club in Atlanta.

He also says that all trenches should run perpendicular to the natural grade and that all drains should carry to a creek, ditch, or solid pipe. Also, don't mix sand with the gravel blanket.

## Managers' money needs compared across U.S.

Clubs attempting to attract competent managers from different areas of the country should be interested in a new study comparing the costs of housing, taxation, and transportation of 15 suburbs or large cities that appeal to managers and executives.

The study, made by Runzheimer Affiliated Services of Rochester, Wis., shows that these three items, which constitute 60 to 75 percent of family budgets, are lowest in Jacksonville, Fla. The costs there for a family earning \$39,000, having a seven-room house, two cars, and two dependent children is \$18,284 annually.

Other cities where the cost-of-living is low are Atlanta, \$19,373; Dallas, \$19,667; and New Orleans, \$20,228. The areas near cities that are most expensive are Lower Connecticut, \$28,799; Burlingame, near San Francisco, \$27,014; and Rye, in Lower New York State, \$26,927. The cities ranked fourth through 11th are Minneapolis, Portland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Denver, Kansas City, and Charlotte.

## Golf tours to visit exotic South Pacific

Four different golf itineraries in the South Pacific are now offered by Air New Zealand in cooperation with Interport, Ltd.: Tahiti, Tahiti/Fiji, New Zealand/Fiji, and New Zealand/Australia/Fiji. Initial tour departure is next month, followed by one per month through December 1979: a total of 20. Many will be escorted by golf pros or by sports or show business celebrities.

Tour costs range from \$875 to \$1695 per person; they include air fare, hotel accommodations, welcome and farewell cocktail parties, trophies for tournament winners, and all airport transfers. In Tahiti, greens fees and caddies, pull carts, or electric carts are also covered.

For details or reservations, contact your travel agent, local Air New Zealand office, or Interport, Ltd. at 16771 Pacific Coast Highway, Sunset Beach, CA 90742 (phone: 213/592-2123).