Clippings

Brief bits of news from in and around the golf business. . . .

A free pocket-size guide called Helpful Tips for Golf Course and Park Maintenance details proven methods of handling common problems—such as breaking up soil cores after aerification—in fairways, roughs, wooded areas, and sand traps using the Fuerst F-l-e-x-b-i-l-e tine harrow. Write to Fuerst Brothers, Inc., Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

Although many pro shop operators these days are leaving the golf course to move "downtown," there's one man in northeastern Ohio who has bucked the trend. Jim Maruna, owner of the Flog Shop, successful golf specialty shop in a suburb east of Cleveland, heads a group of investors who recently purchased Hemlocks Golf Course near Geneva. Other members of the owners group include Maruna's partner in the Flog Shop, Ted Brunst, and Maruna's brother-in-law. Joseph A. Thomas will operate the 6,847-yard, 18-hole layout, which was built in 1965 by former owners Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vanis. The Vanis family has retired to a ranch in Texas.

Jonathan's Landing, a residential community currently under construction near Jupiter, Fla., will include an 18-hole, par 71 golf course designed by Tom and George Fazio. Because the property includes more than 125 acres of winding waterways, the course will incorporate many challenging water hazards.

When the course at Jonathan's Landing opens December 1, its director of golf will be Frank Cardi, who has been the golf pro at Apawamis Club in Rye, N.Y., as well as national secretary of the Professional Golfers' Association. Cardi will probably become president of the PGA this December.

Construction of another new course will be begun next year, this one by Kurt Kressin and his father on their property in Mountain Home, Ark. The course has been laid out by Cecill Hollingsworth, superintendent at Singing Hills Country Club and Lodge, El Cajon, Calif. The younger Kressin is currently assistant superintendent at Green Valley Country Club, Tucson, Ariz.

After 22 years as a golf course superintendent, Terry Potenhaus, CGCS, left the Country Club of Indianapolis on August 1 to go into business for himself. This October would have marked his 17th year at CCI.

The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association recently named Herb Lockwood an honorary lifetime member. Lockwood worked in golf course maintenance for nearly 50 years; he took over as superintendent at Kissing Camels Golf Course in Colorado Springs in 1959 and stayed there until his retirement last year. He also served at one time as president of the RMGCSA.

Dr. Jerry L. Purswell has been appointed director of safety standards programs for the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. He said he plans to establish an overall plan and set priorities for the "critical need of updating and simplifying safety standards." Purswell's background includes three degrees in engineering; teaching ergonomics, human factors in engineering, and industrial safety; research in consumer product safety, work physiology, and occupational biomechanics; and management and consulting with major industrial firms.

Dr. Terrance Riordan has joined the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as associate professor of horticulture. According to university turfgrass specialist Robert C. Shearman, Riordan's research "will involve developing turfgrasses, specifically Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, and buffalo grass species for the Plains states and transition zone." Riordan's degrees are from Purdue University; his most recent job was breeding cool season grasses for O. M. Scott & Sons.

E-Z-Go Textron has named Drummond L. Kurtz vice president of operations, responsible for manufacturing operations at the division's golf car facility in Augusta, Ga. He had been production control manager and manager of materials. . . . Polaris E-Z-Go, a Textron division headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., has appointed Lindsay Willis marketing assistant. She will be responsible for marketing analysis and research as well as various projects in product development, advertising, and promotion of golf cars and other products.

Ed Worthington, well-known New York State supplier of golf course maintenance products, says that Texas Refinery Corp.'s Double 00 mower grease with molybdenum does a great job of lubricating places where metal-to-metal contact occurs. The secret is the molybdenum.

Jim Strain, golf superintendent at Binghamton (N.Y.) Country Club, introduced Worthington to the product. Worthington reports: "Jim and his mechanic tell me their experience has shown that this grease does not leak past the mower seals and will not cause channeling in cold weather in the fall. As a result, we have this grease in stock in 35-gallon pails with a dispenser, if needed."

Use RR ties to line creeks or channels

Confronted with a major flooding problem on one of his fairways at Hyde Park Country Club in Cincinnati, Ohio, Superintendent David Stang sought and received a recommendation from a consultant. He was told that an open ditch would provide the necessary drainage. But because of the cost of installing retaining walls of rock or cement, Stang used railroad ties to line the creek.

A backhoe dug the new creek and channeled out the existing ones to increase the flow of water (fast running water stays cleaner). Stang reported in the Greater Cincinnati GCSCA's "Green Breeze" newsletter that the creek is 8 feet wide and 3 feet deep—the depth at which they struck bed rock, which "made excellent footing for the railroad tie wall."

Nailed together with ½-inch reinforcing rods 12 inches long, the wall was further strengthened by placing "dead men" every 10 to 15 feet. A trencher dug slots for the dead men to anchor them in stable ground.

The result? Says Stang: "Even with the excess snowfall runoff this spring, the creek handled all the water, the fairway dried better than usual and was ready for play with the other fairways."

Molybdenum grease keeps gang mowers mowing

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