

News

PUBLIC COURSES

Proposed university course approved

The construction of an 18-hole golf course at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore., was merely a dream 10 years ago, but that dream may become a reality as a result of recent developments concerning the proposed facility. Recent action taken includes:

- Two retired OSU professors, conducting a market study of the area, have endorsed the feasibility of a university-owned course.

- The OSU Foundation, a private, non-profit organization which raises funds for the university, is currently negotiating the sale of a \$250,000 parcel of land which would help finance construction of the proposed facility.

- The Oregon State Board of Higher Education has voted 7-3 to lease 175 acres of land to the Foundation to begin the project.

Before construction can begin the Foundation must also be awarded a conditional use permit by the Linn County Commission. The permit would enable the course to be built on agricultural-zoned land near the university.

Although many favor construction of a university-owned course there has been some opposition to the proposed facility. Jerry Claussen, owner of The Golf Club of Oregon in nearby North Albany, said he is "unconditionally opposed to the philosophy" of a state institution competing against a privately owned golf course. Further, Claussen said the area would not support another golf course.

Joe Much, Pacific Northwest region director for the National Golf Foundation, disagrees. "As far as I'm concerned the market is not saturated," he said. "The market will certainly support one more course and possibly two."

There are currently three 18-hole courses (one public and two private) and three 9-hole facilities serving a two-county area with a population of about 150,000.

Milosh Popovich, a member of the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees, added that the Foundation would pay taxes on the land just like any golf course. "No

state monies will be used in the operation of the course," he said.

Claussen, who is also president of the Oregon Golf Course Owners Association, said he plans to continue fighting construction of the proposed facility. "Chances of it being done are eight out of ten, but it easily could be 1980 before any ground is moved," he said.

SEED

Cold winter may increase production

The quality and quantity of Oregon-grown grass seed should increase as a result of the long stretch of freezing temperatures in that state this year.

Cold temperatures not only help control insect activity in turf, but also play an important role in the reduction of turf diseases, particularly rust, according to Dr. William Meyer of Oregon's Turf-Seed, Inc.

In recent years large outbreaks of rust throughout Oregon have caused a reduction in the state's seed production, but this year's cold weather should help alleviate that problem. Freezing temperatures kill rust spores and reduce the incidence of rust in crops.

However, cold weather can also be detrimental to seed production. New seed crops are often destroyed when a rapid rise in temperature, after a prolonged freeze, causes the plants to heave out of the ground. Even with the damage caused by "plant heave" it appears that the advantages of a cold winter outweigh the disadvantages for Oregon seed producers, Meyer said.

HERBICIDES

Court upholds ban of Silvex, 2,4,5-T

A temporary ban on the use of the herbicides Silvex and 2,4,5-T was recently upheld by a federal court in Flint, Mich., and that could spell trouble for golf course superintendents, according to a spokesman for the Chevron Chemical Co., San Francisco. Silvex, which is used in more than 275 turf care products, is manufactured by Chevron.

Dr. Joseph A. Crozier, national technical service specialist for



BIG NAMES IN GOLF BUSINESS: Meeting at the annual convention of the American Society of Golf Course Architects were (L to R) Jerry Hurley, executive director of the National Club Association; John Laupheimer, deputy executive director, United States Golf Association; ASGCA Past President Rees Jones; Donald Ross award winner Joe Dey; Charles Tadge, president, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; Dave Canavan, past president, Golf Course Builders of America; and Don Rossi, executive director, National Golf Foundation.

Garden and Home Products for Chevron, said the ban will have an affect on the superintendent's ability to control broadleaf and brush-type weeds. "People on golf courses will have difficulty finding another chemical to control these weeds as well as Silvex does," he said. "However, it should be less difficult for them to find replacement chemicals for the easier-to-control weeds."

A spokesman for Dow Chemical Co., manufacturer of 2,4,5-T, said the ban on its herbicide should not have much of an affect on the golf industry since 2,4,5-T is not used extensively in that market. It is used primarily on U.S. forests, pastureland, power line right-of-ways, and rice fields.

The Environmental Protection Agency ordered an emergency suspension of most uses of the products after an EPA study indicated that a "significantly higher" rate of miscarriages occurred in Alsea, Ore., soon after the national forests there had been sprayed with 2,4,5-T. Both Silvex and 2,4,5-T contain minute amounts of tetra-dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals in the world.

In April, Dow, Chevron, and nine other plaintiffs requested an injunction to prevent the EPA from enforcing its ban, but the request was denied.

The ban was to remain in effect until at least late April when the EPA was to conduct hearings on the chemicals. Three EPA judges were to hear testimony from more than 30 industry representatives as they tried to defend the use of 2,4,5-T

and Silvex. A decision is required by July, with an additional 10 days for EPA Administrator Douglas Costle to review the decision before it becomes effective.

ASSOCIATIONS

Fla. superintendents to activate state group

The Florida State Golf Course Superintendent's Association, inactive since 1973, may re-establish itself as early as August, according to Tim Hiers, leader of a group of local superintendent's organizations eager to develop a "working" state association.

In March, representatives from six of the state's eight superintendent's groups met in Tampa to discuss the possible re-establishment of a statewide organization. Hiers, superintendent of Suntree Country Club in Melbourne, said, "We're trying to unify the superintendents across the state to increase their participation in the individual associations and in the national organizations."

Reorganization of the state association began in October 1978 when four presidents of the original Florida State GCSA met in Orlando and elected Hiers president. Since that time the group has formed a committee to develop a set of by-laws and re-filed with the state to become an active corporation. The