control dry and wet spots, as well as uneven wetting. “We start injecting the irrigation system in the spring with 10 gallons of the soil penetrant per 1 million gallons of water,” Slattery explains. “I go through a 55-gallon drum every year that costs about $950.”

That’s not much, especially when one considers that Slattery says he spends about 75 percent less than other area courses on a year’s supply of fungicide. Locust Hill also has more bentgrass because the course is receiving less water. Slattery explains that Poa annua dies if it doesn’t receive enough water. “We have a reliable and consistent golf course for all seasons,” he adds.

**Comments**
Slattery used other soil surfactants before and had problems with phytotoxicity, which caused the grass to turn slightly yellow. Despite the positives of surfactants, Slattery says it wasn’t worth applying them because of the damage they did.

So Slattery was guarded when he was approached by an Aquatrols representative, who wanted him to try its soil surfactant products. “But [the representative] said the products were safe and wouldn’t cause phytotoxicity,” Slattery recalls of the meeting. “So I gave them a try on a limited basis.” That was four years ago. Slattery, a veteran superintendent of more than 30 years, began at a course in New Hampshire “when we didn’t have all of this high maintenance,” he says of today’s technology for maintaining golf courses. Later, Slattery worked as an assistant at the prestigious Oak Hill CC in nearby Rochester and experienced the high-maintenance end of the business.

But the challenge-minded Slattery wanted a job at a course where he could maintain quality turf without using all the pesticides required for high-maintenance. He’s doing that at Locust Hill.

**Leaders**

The board of directors of American Golf Corp. named industry veterans David Plittsbury and Joe Guerra as co-CEOs.


Turfgrass Producers International elected Earl V. Slack president. Slack is director of southern farming operations for Pacific Earth Resources.

Alexander Marshall was promoted to maintenance operations manager of Environmental Golf. Prior to joining the company in 1995 as an estimator and agronomist, Marshall was superintendent of Brierwood CC in Hamburg, N.Y. The company also named Susan Crawford director of golf management. She was previously West Coast regional director for the Palmer Management Group.

Bali Hai GC in Las Vegas named Richard Friedemann its superintendent.

Scott J. Mendenhall was named the construction manager and superintendent for Thunderbirds GC in Phoenix.

Heritage Eagle Bend Golf & CC in Aurora, Colo., named Matthew Molloy as director of golf and Roe Sherbert as superintendent.