Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews putting-greens.com
(All sites are preceded by http:// unless otherwise noted)

www.putting-greens.com — It's amazing how easy taking care of putting greens sounds when you visit this site, which hawks a manual written by Leo Maleson called Beginner's Guide to Backyard Golf Putting Greens for $20. Since Maleson wants you to buy the book, he doesn't reveal any tips on the site.

Maleson does reveal a sense of humor with his response to a question about how much time it takes to tend a green. He shows two charts detailing the number of minutes it takes to tend to a backyard green (the second chart is done tongue-in-cheek). I'd love to hear superintendents evaluate his time predictions.

Industry companies in the business like Maleson's idea because the site is full of links to companies such as Jacklin Seed and mower companies. It appears that they have sponsored Maleson's site in order to reach consumers. The site also contains discussion groups for people who have already built greens in their backyards. One former superintendent has already parlayed his knowledge into a successful business (which you can examine at www.backyardputtinggreens.com). Tom Herrick created this business after a career in golf course maintenance. Although he installs synthetic putting greens, he says his customers are more comfortable when they deal with someone who knows the real turf business.

Editor's Note: The Florida GCSA launched a new Web site in August. To find news about what's going on in course maintenance in Florida, visit www.floridagcsa.com or contact Golfdom's own Joel Jackson at fgrn@aol.com.

Managing editor Frank H. Andorka Jr. compiles Scanning the Web and will leave the tending of putting greens to the experts. You can reach him at fandorka@advanstar.com with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.