

Business briefs

Briefs continued from page 15

"The main portion of the land we used for Hudson Hills used to be a golf course," explains Mungeam, a partner with Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish, Silva and Mungeam. "It was a private club called Pine Ridge when it opened in the 1920s, though the club changed its name many times: It became Sunset Hills, then Pine Ridge again before it took the name Hudson Hills Golf Club in the mid-1960s."

The club closed in 1982, when IBM purchased the property with plans to build a corporate research laboratory there. Those plans never materialized. The county stepped in, bought the land back and retained Mungeam to design a new course.

Cleghorn named president of PTI

Sylacauga, Ala.-based Pursell Technologies Inc. (PTI) promoted Arnold Cleghorn to president. PTI is celebrating its centennial year, and Cleghorn represents the first non-family member to hold the office of president. Cleghorn has been with PTI for more than 20 years, most recently as senior vice president and chief operating officer. He will continue as COO.

Buffalo acquires topdressers

Buffalo Turbine recently acquired Terracare's Terratopper line of topdressers. Production of the New Buffalo Turbine BT-1000 Terratopper (Terracare's T-1000) commenced in June at the Buffalo Turbine Manufacturing facility in Springville, N.Y.

George Hamilton Died as He Lived – With Grace

PENN STATE PROFESSOR SUCCUMBS TO CANCER AT 43

By Frank H. Andorka Jr., Managing Editor

George Hamilton's impact on the industry could be measured by many different criteria, but no singular measure of success could ever fully explain the effect he had on so many people's lives — including mine — over the years.

I first experienced George, an assistant professor of turfgrass management at Penn State University, who died in July at 43 after a yearlong battle with pancreatic cancer, at the 1999 Penn State Golf Turf Conference when he was

a senior lecturer. I joined *Golfdom* a mere three months before and was still trying to get my bearings in the industry. I asked him for his advice about what I should be listening for next.

I needn't have feared rejection or scorn, of course (indeed, I sincerely doubt George was capable of those

emotions). Instead, he shook my hand warmly after I introduced myself and seemed genuinely concerned that I not feel left out of the conference's proceedings. I never forgot

George's generosity of spirit, and it never left him, either — not even in the face of the biggest battle of his life this past year.

I appreciated the comfort he felt in his own skin, his ever-present optimism and his essential humanity. That's why the news of George's death hits me particularly hard — I was so sure that by

sheer force of his personality and will that he would win this battle, too. The industry will be a poorer place without him.



George Hamilton: Industry will be a poorer place without him.

*A longer version of this piece can be seen at www.golfdom.com in the July 15 edition of the *Golfdom Insider* newsletter.*

Candid Camera and a Hole-in-One

A Cleveland entrepreneur came up with a great idea that led to a great hole-in-one contest at a great Cleveland golf course.

First, the golf course is called Manakiki Golf Course, a classic Donald Ross design located in the Cleveland suburb of Willoughby Hills.

Second, the entrepreneur, Mike Burkons, developed a cool hole-in-one monitoring system that is vital to the contest. Through Burkons' extensive knowledge of outdoor surveillance cameras, the course was able to set up a system that eliminates the

need for human monitors and the organizational challenge of arranging such a contest.

Third, the contest, which began in late July, runs through this season. Every paying golfer will be awarded \$1,000 if he or she makes a hole in one on Manakiki's No. 7. Every golfer is given a ticket from the cashier upon paying for their rounds. When golfers reach No. 7, they insert their tickets into the kiosk at the tee. Once a ticket is read and validated, the surveillance camera monitors a golfer's

first shot to see if he or she makes a hole-in-one.

Golfers can also purchase \$1 to \$5 upgrades to increase the value of the prize (if they make holes-in-one) when paying for their rounds. For instance, a \$4 upgrade brings \$7,500 in cash and a \$1,000 gift certificate for golf at Manakiki.

Also, for every \$1 upgrade, 10 cents is donated to the First Tee of Cleveland.

For more information about installing the hole-in-one monitoring system on your course, call 216-241-3202.