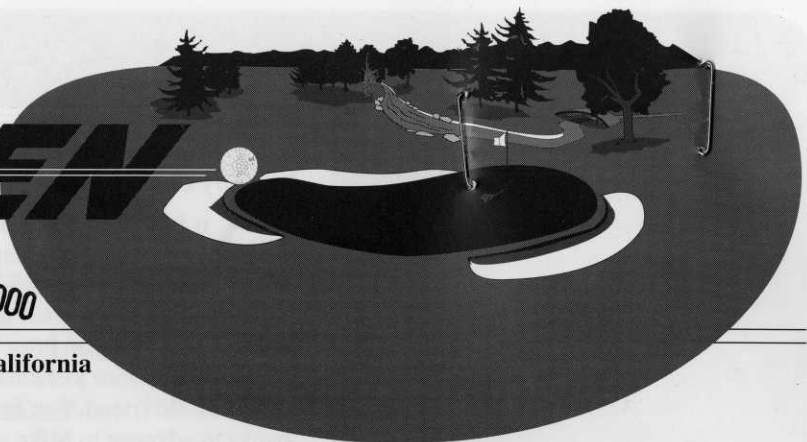


THRU THE GREEN

July, 2000

JUL - 8 2000



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

Oakmont Golf Club and Mike Clark, CGCS to Host July Meeting

By: Ken Williams, CGCS

The Oakmont golf courses are part of the Oakmont retirement community located in the wine country of Sonoma County. Ted Robinson designed both courses, the West in 1963 and the East in 1973. Ted was chosen because of his experience in land and community master planning. The original developer operated the courses until 1992 when they were sold to 863 resident members and are now semi-private. Mike Clark, CGCS became the Supt. in 1966, after working for prior superintendents, Ed Stocke and Fred Mays.

Mike began in the golf industry at 14, caddying at a 9-hole course where the "greenkeepers" at the time were Ed Stocke and Howard Fisher. After learning the game from Ed and Howard, and seeing how much they loved their work, he made the natural move into the profession. Howard took Mike everywhere to play golf. He even took him to some superintendent meetings when Mike was still a school kid.

Mike's long tenure at Oakmont, 36 years, seems to be the exception today. But when he started in the business, it was the norm. In those days he admired the long tours of duty by Leonard Feliciano at Pebble Beach, Tony Layton at Cypress Point, and Walter Boysen at Sequoyah C.C. Mike is proud of being able to see the development of the Oakmont project to its completion. It was supposed to have been done in 10 years, but actually took 30. As a benefit, Mike enjoyed having each of his three boys work on the course during their high school and

college years. All three graduated from college, but didn't choose a career in golf. "I guess I made them rake too many bunkers," quipped Mike.

Steve Good joined Mike at Oakmont as a partner in 1996. "Steve brought a fresh pair of eyes to the forest that I've been looking at, and his input has been a real benefit to the golf courses." Steve directs the staff and implements the improvement projects at Oakmont. The club just completed a new pro-shop and restaurant complex for the West course. Other projects underway, as funds are available, are converting asphalt paths to concrete, returning bunkers to original shapes, the never ending drainage installations, and sanding of the fairways to improve winter playing conditions. "I say as funds are available, because we don't assess members any money. We are a 'for profit club' and operate on our income only." This is consistent with a club made up of 100% retired members. The courses are open 7 days a week and have 140,000 rounds played on them annually.

The meeting topic of "Poa" fits in well at Oakmont as both courses are predominately Poa annua. The golf courses were originally built to promote home sales and not really maintained in a way to fight Poa, so Poa had a relatively easy time of invasion. Mike says he spends time during each hot spell trying to convince his Poa it really wants to live, not die.

Mike and Steve look forward to your visit in July. If you don't stay to play golf you can still enjoy your visit. There are a dozen or more wineries to visit just a couple of miles south in Kenwood and Glen Ellen. /

Permacorp To Sponsor July Meeting at Oakmont

Permacorp™ is proud to be a new member of GCSANC and sponsor for the July 18th meeting at Oakmont CC. The company has made a major commitment to the golf industry with the recent introduction of its subsurface drainage system, Perma Panel™.

Perma Panels are rigid polyethylene panel devices that collect and carry off drainage water, designed by Karl Adamson, a construction engineer, of Grass Valley, California. It was Karl's objective to design a product that would be easier to install and not disrupt the surrounding environment as required by rock and pipe collection systems, while at the same time improving efficiency.

The product **separates the functions of intake and discharge of the collected drainage waters** by using a process called twin sheet vacuum forming. This allows all collected

drainage water to be channeled to a desired collection/discharge area. Additionally, the slot size, and ability to flush a Perma Panel system, **eliminates the need for any geotextile filter fabrics.** Soil fines collected by Perma Panels are typically washed out with the drainage water or may be flushed periodically by incorporating a cleanout at any point in the system.

Perma Panels come in two sizes. The three-inch discharge panel (P-3000) is six inches high and is capable of discharging up to 80 GPM. The four-inch discharge panel (P-4000) is seven inches high and capable of discharging approximately 170 GPM or more.

The benefits of the product include: Less than half the installation cost of a typical rock and pipe drainage system—labor, equipment costs are lower and uses 1/6th the backfill media as rock and pipe; easy installation using a walk behind trencher; the compact design allows for a shallow

See Permacorp continued on page 4

Golf Course Is Fined for Discharges

By SEEMA MEHTA, L.A. Times Staff Writer

Pelican Hill Golf Course in Newport Beach was fined \$148,000 Friday for illegally discharging recycled water into the ocean off Crystal Cove, state water officials said.

"Environmentally, it probably didn't have that much effect, but it's very serious due to the magnitude of the discharges, the fact they weren't reported and they were repeated," said Kurt Berchtold, assistant executive officer of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Prompted by a letter from Orange County CoastKeeper, investigators learned that course operator Western Golf Properties had eight unauthorized discharges of nearly 16 million gallons of recycled water between August 1999 and January. Similar discharges occurred in 1996.

Irrigation water overflowed from two ponds into the ocean off Crystal Cove State Park, which is designated an "area of special biological significance" and protected under the 1997 California Ocean Plan.

"Certainly, we'd like to put it behind us, and we regret that it happened," said Joe Black, president of Western Golf Properties, based in Scottsdale, Arizona. "By the same token, that's a lot of money."

Black said he is not sure whether his company will appeal the fine. He said safety measures have been added since the latest incident: New valves and an alarm system have been installed, the lake level has been lowered and policies outlining proper response have been implemented.

CoastKeeper, an environmental group based in Newport Beach, filed a notice in January of intent to sue the course operator, as well as the Irvine Co., the course's owner, and the Irvine Ranch Water District, the provider of recycled water that is used to irrigate the course under the federal Clean Water Act.

Berchtold said no fines were levied against the developer or the water district because investigators believe it was the operator who was negligent.

Garry Brown of CoastKeeper said the group has not sued and is in talks with Irvine Co. officials.

As for the fine, he said: "Well, it's about time. As far as the money, it's almost a moot point. It doesn't bring back the damage it caused. . . . [But] there's been an acknowledgment."

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Dursban Remains Labeled For Golf Course Applications

Dow AgroSciences LLC announced an agreement with the US EPA that will allow the continued use of Dursban insecticide (chlorpyrifos) on golf courses. Chlorpyrifos products were among the first scrutinized under new standards resulting from the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA).

"We're pleased that golf course superintendents will continue to realize the benefits of this product," said Bruce Miehle, general manager for Turf and Ornamental Products at Dow. "Dursban products have been on the market for more than 30 years. More than 3,600 studies and reports have been conducted examining critical aspects of chlorpyrifos products as they relate to health and safety. No other insect control product has been more researched more thoroughly."

The agreement that Dow announced includes a voluntary cancellation of most in-and-around the home uses of chlorpyrifos in the U.S., including use of the product as a full-barrier termiticide treatment in existing residential structures.

Free Compost-Quality Publication Available

Not quite sure how to evaluate the quality of compost? Check out the California Integrated Waste Management Board's new publication "Compost: Matching Performance needs with Product Characteristics." This document helps you to evaluate compost based on your specific needs and guides you in the types of questions you should ask compost producers. The publication is available free of charge. Contact Bertie Mora at (916) 255-2708 or send your request via email to bmora@ciwmb.ca.gov. You may also locate suppliers of compost on the *Organics Outlook* web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/organics/farming.

Permacorp (Cont'd)

and narrow trench; no need for geotextile fabrics; separate intake and discharge system; it is the only drainage product designed to be maintained by clean out and flushing; its six foot lengths are easily transported; and is easily connected to standard drainage pipe and fittings.

Currently Perma Panel™ is available in the Western United States with distribution throughout the country scheduled for 2001 and is sold through leading irrigation and green industry distributors.

For more information visit the web site at: www.permacorp.com or contact Jim Sabraw, Director of Marketing & Sales at 888/844-0296 or sabraw@permacorp.com.

Quick Quotes

"Democracy means government by discussion but it is only effective if you can stop people talking."

— Clement Attlee —

"The Future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is."

— C. S. Lewis —