



Director's Column

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As we enter into a new decade there are two new laws effective January 1st that pertain to our business. I foresee this to be a trend and perhaps the next 10 years will be called the decade of regulations not only for golf courses but for all industries.

One law that has just come into effect is the posting law for golf courses. The posting law requires golf course superintendents to post a sign at the 1st tee, the pro shop, and the locker rooms. The sign shall read: **"Plant protectants are periodically applied to this golf course. If desired you may contact your golf course superintendent for further information."**

This means that we must be able to supply information to anyone asking a question about chemicals that are applied to our golf course. Keep those MSDS sheets and specimen labels of all of our golf course chemicals available in a separate file. (This is also a law). Closer examination of the wording of the new law is interpreted to mean that we don't have to notify golfers nor adjacent property owners when a chemical is applied unless an individual specifically request us to do so.

Violations shall be considered a petty offense and a fine of \$100.00 shall be assessed for the first offense. The fine increases with additional violations from \$200.00 to \$500.00.

The other law that become effective as of Jan. 1st, 1990 is the proof of liability insurance for our personal and company vehicles. This requires every licensed vehicle in the State of Illinois to have a proof of insurance card in the vehicle.

In my area, police are asking for this insurance card after a routine traffic stop. \$500.00 must be posted until proof of insurance is given. If no insurance, expect to pay \$500.00 and possibly lose your license for 2 months.

In conclusion, let's show our professionalism by knowing the laws and abiding by them. Make sure your applicator's license is up to date or hire someone who has a proper license to apply chemicals for you. Also check the licensed company vehicles for the proof of insurance card. That's the least we can do.

NECROLOGY

The deepest sympathy of the members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is extended to Don Cross and his family due to the death of his father on February 9th, 1990.

Golf Course Construction Hits 16-Year High in U.S.

JUPITER, Fla. — Golf course construction in the United States reached a 16-year high in 1989, according to the National Golf Foundation's latest research report.

The report, *Golf Facilities in the United States, 1990 Edition*, shows that 290 golf courses opened for play last year, the highest total since 1973. That was a healthy 37 percent increase over the 211 that opened in 1988, which had been the decade's previous highwater mark in openings. It was also a record year for courses under construction (463) and in planning (603).

"These figures are a very positive sign that the golf industry is well on the way to its goal of at least 400 new courses per year," said NGF President and CEO Joseph F. Beditz.

As the *Facilities 1990* report's chapter on Supply and Demand Perspectives points out, for several years the golf industry has been aware of a growing disparity between course construction rates and golfer population growth. In response, the NGF has developed for the industry a long-range strategic plan which projected a need for at least 400 courses yearly until the year 2000.

NGF research is projecting that, at the current rate of growth in the popularity of golf in the U.S., the nation's golfing population could increase from today's 23.4 million to well over 30 million by the end of the century.

Golf Course Openings in 1989 — National Summary

	Type of Course			
	Daily Fee	Municipal	Private	Total
Opened as new facilities	106	25	59	190
Added to existing facilities	50	10	40	100
Total Courses	156	35	99	290

Public Vs. Private

Of the 290 new courses that opened last year, 191 — 66 percent — were public (daily-fee and municipal) facilities. That percentage is a significant gain over 1988, when 59 percent of openings were public courses. Since 80 percent of all golfers play primarily on public courses, this is a second encouraging sign for the industry's future, which many observers believe depends in large measure on accelerating public golf construction to meet demand. Overall, the supply of public golf facilities is now 61 percent of the nation's course supply.

Summit Item

Golf course development will be one of the key items on the agenda at Golf Summit 90, the third in a series of industrywide strategic planning meetings promulgated by the NGF. Scheduled Nov. 12-14 in Palm Springs, Calif., the Summit will examine the challenges and opportunities impacting golf's growth into the 1990s ... and will update the industry's strategics and plans for maximizing that growth.

Florida Still Tops; Michigan Vaults to 2nd

Florida, which already had more golf courses than any other state (see attached State Summary), led the nation for the fifth straight year with 50 course openings, more than the next three states combined. However, second-place Michigan, with 19 courses, was the most surprising state, nearly quadrupling its 1988 total of five and moving up from 10th place.

On the downside, two traditional leaders fell off their 1988 places. The biggest drop was by Texas, which went from 20 openings to 12 and from second place to sixth. California also

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