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Crumb Rubber

An Environmental Opportunity for Turf

Ken Diesburg and
She-Kong Chong
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL

Rarely do we in the turf industry get the opportunity to do something that is highly visible and a top priority in benefiting most of your citizens. We are more often in the position of defending our work in providing high quality turf. Many people have a low appreciation for the positive impact the turfgrass industry has upon the environment and our civilization in the stabilization of soils, purification of water and air, provision of recreation and beauty, and reduction of noise, energy consumption, and allergens. It seems turf is most appreciated when it is being abused the most, during sports and recreational activities. Those are precisely the times when turfgrasses have the most difficulty growing. Historically, the bulk of improvements in the turf industry have come in the form of improved cultivars, machines, and chemicals. With the exception of sand-constructed rootzones, we have made very little progress improving turfgrass soils. Only recently are we learning that perhaps the greatest progress to be made in managing athletic turf is in properly managing its compacted soil.

So what does this have to do with crumb rubber? Discarded tires are a *big* environmental problem. One waste tire is produced per person each year in our country. For Illinois, that amounts to 12 million discarded tires per year. Small mountains of these tires are accumulating in the vicinities of our major cities. They

are not only an eyesore, but they tend to heat up during the summer, occasionally catching fire from spontaneous combustion. They are not allowed in landfills of most states. The smoke from burning rubber is a serious carcinogen. Once a fire starts, it is nearly impossible to extinguish because of inaccessibility to high internal temperatures. This sce-

*A side benefit
from the crumb
rubber might be
increased resiliency
(bounce) of the turf.
If that is the case,
the soil might be less
compactible and
would reduce human
injury during
recreation and sports.*

nario becomes tragic when we consider that the rubber from car tires is a highly durable, stable, and elastic synthetic compound. It is a valuable resource being discarded.

Enter the turfgrass industry. Turf is the only plant cultural system that gets walked on. We have a chronic problem of maintaining healthy turf in trafficked areas due to soil compaction. The problem is complex because it involves not only compression and torsion

(tearing) forces on the plant tissues but also the same forces upon the soil. Damaged plants have a hard enough time recovering without having to do it in a soil devoid of oxygen and poor in structure.

Dr. Trey Rogers and company in Michigan have documented the value of topdressing a trafficked turf with crumb rubber. It protects the crowns of the turfgrass, thereby reducing damage and allowing the grass more continuous growth. What you get is a significantly reduced area of poor quality turf. Research is presently under way at Southern Illinois University to determine the value of crumb rubber that is incorporated into the soil. It is being compared to topdressing alone and in combination with topdressing. We hope to find the right grade (crumb rubber particle size) and amount (percent volume in the soil) that will increase macroporosity. This would increase the amount of soil air space for oxygen to the roots and water infiltration and drainage. The result would be more vigorous turf capable of rapid recovery after traffic.

A side benefit from the crumb rubber might be increased resiliency (bounce) of the turf. If that is the case, the soil might be less compactible and would reduce human injury during recreation and sports.

So there you have it. This is a beautiful way of contributing to the quality of our environment. We can reduce a pollutant while improving the quality and safety of recreation and sports for our people. So please support this pro-

(continued on page 24)

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A Hazard is Always a Hazard

David Finney, CGCS
Lakeview Resort
Rules Committee Chairman
West Virginia Golf Association

 Occasionally, rules questions may arise when hazards on the golf course become unplayable for one reason or another. Here is some information that every superintendent may find useful with regard to hazards.

The rules of golf define a hazard as any bunker or water hazard on the course. Let's consider what would happen if a ball landed in a water hazard that was under construction with the installation of new bulkheads, or a ball landed in a bunker that was completely washed out and in the process of being restored to its original condition. Surely, you would think there is some relief under the rules for situations like these that temporarily alter the structure and playability of hazards.

Unfortunately, for the golfer, a hazard is always a hazard; and there is almost never free relief from a hazard regardless of its condition, with one exception.


In the first scenario, your greenkeeping staff is installing new bulkheads within the confines of a water hazard, and a ball enters the construction area. Rule 25-1b addresses this situation saying that the ball may be dropped without penalty in the hazard as near as possible to where it lay, in an area that provides *maximum available relief*. Take note that the ball must be dropped in the hazard, and the player is not afforded total relief from the construction, only *maximum available relief*, which by definition allows the player to drop on ground that is most nearly normal.

In order to gain total relief from the construction and/or hazard, the player must add a one-stroke penalty and drop the ball outside the hazard. Because it is usual for a ball in a water hazard to be unplayable, areas under repair should not normally be defined as ground-under-repair. A water hazard does not lose its status as a water hazard just because of the construction.

In the second scenario, your greenkeeping staff is pushing the sand back up in a bunker after heavy rains have washed it out, and a ball lands in the bunker.

The bunker does not lose its status as a hazard because of the rain washout or because the grounds crew is working in the bunker. Once again, rule 25-1b allows the player to drop in the bunker without penalty in an area affording *maximum available relief*, or he may drop the ball outside the bunker taking the one-stroke penalty.

Finally, let's look at a scenario where the greenkeeping staff is completely rebuilding a bunker with new drains, new sod, the works, and the entire bunker is undergoing construction. Decision 25/13 tells us that even this bunker does not lose its status as a hazard, and there is still no free relief. However, it is recommended that the committee should define the bunker as *ground-under-repair* and classify the bunker as *through-the-green*. Reclassifying the bunker as *through-the-green* is the one and only "loophole" that will finally get the player free relief from a hazard.


This article is available in Microsoft Word via e-mail (finney@imagixx.net) 

Crumb Rubber

(continued from page 22)

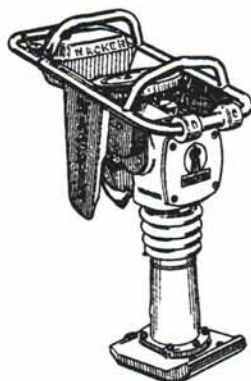
ject whenever you can. The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation is one avenue for support. Your tax dollars are presently supporting our project. Alan Justice, in the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, has the sole responsibility of finding uses

for crumb and shredded rubber from waste tires. He and his people are the ones who approved and are supporting this project. Come visit the athletic field beside the football stadium of SIU in Edwardsville to get a first-hand look at all the treatments of crumb rubber with Lee Green-

berg of GreenEdge Enterprises (314-863-3444). He is the one who initially proposed the idea for the project to us. Mark Shaw, director of the grounds at SIU, Edwardsville (618-692-2719), has been a facilitator helping to make this happen. 

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Ken Lapp's First 50 Years

Carol McCue
Cog Hill G.C.

Our own Ken Lapp, superintendent of the four courses of Cog Hill, has just completed his 50th year of working for Joe Jemsek, remarkable in this day of short attention spans. Ken started working in the clubhouse at St. Andrews when he was 12 years old washing glasses, sweeping, picking up papers, and filling tee bags. After two years, he began working on the grounds crew and at age 19 moved over to Fresh Meadows as head superintendent. He stayed at Fresh Meadows for

eighteen years and in 1973 moved over to the top job at Cog Hill.

During Ken's twenty-six years as superintendent of Cog Hill, he maintained the courses for seven Western Open Championships, the U.S. Amateur Championship, the 1970 and 1989 USGA Public Links Championship, the 1987 USGA Women's Public Links Championship, the 1988 Western Junior, the 1987 and 1989 Ram Intercollegiate, the 1992 Great Midwest College Conference Championship, and numerous national qualifying rounds and corporate

outings. Cog Hill has been host to many national golf schools and many charity pro ams, including Michael Jordan Day, Walter Payton Day, and Mike Ditka Day. All events received nothing but accolades from the participants.

Ken has been married to Betty for 43 years and has three sons: John, Bill and Jeff, all with Masters degrees.


We hope he keeps up the good work for another 50 years!



Ray Gerber Editorial Award Contestants 1997-1998

Fred Opperman
Editor

7or this year, we will have nine articles to choose from which qualify for the Ray Gerber Editorial Award. Article 5 of the Guidelines for the award state, "There must be at least six articles in a qualifying year (September through August) to be considered. If less than six articles qualify in any one year, those qualifying will be carried over to the next year(s) until there are six articles to be judged."

All of the articles will be judged by a panel of five judges, and only one will be picked as the winner for this time period. The award will be given at the Midwest Clinic in November. 

THOSE QUALIFYING FOR THE AWARD IN 1997/1998 ARE:

1997	Article	Author
September	Golf Cart Usage	Daniel Albaugh
	The Naturalized Golf Course	Patrick Norton
October	Are You Walking on Water?	Tom Broedeur
November	None	
December	None	
1998	Article	Author
January	None	
February	A Clearer Picture	Jeff Leuzinger
March	<i>golferus no repairus diviticus</i>	Nick Hongisto
April	To Cover or Not to Cover?	Daniel Albaugh
May	None	
June	Point of View From the Club PGA Professional	Gary Hearn
	If You Are a Golf Course Dog, Read This!	John Gurke
July	Don't Let the Legal Beaver Bite You	Kevin DeRoo
August	None	



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On a side note, this past weekend, I attended my twenty-year class reunion (Naperville North, 1978). Talk about bazaar! The men did not age anywhere near as well as the women did. It then occurred to me that those twenty years had passed by me very quickly, and so did many experiences and encounters along the way. I also realized that the next two decades will probably pass just as quickly. I am aware that we all have our trials and tribulations, some of us, unfortunately, more than others. But it also occurred to me in talking with former classmates how blessed I have been to have gotten into the golf course industry. I sometimes take for granted how it allows most of us the opportunity to work out of doors; the amenity of flexibility in our work day and family life; the excitement of new challenges almost daily; the ongoing

ing opportunity to play golf and fraternize with our good friends and fellow members during monthly, if not weekly, events and gatherings.

For these reasons, I am truly thankful, as time goes by all too quickly. We lose close friends and family, our children grow to adulthood and move on, and we sometimes do not relish the good things in our lives when given the chance. So as not to sound gloomy or corny, I wanted to extend a reminder to all of us not to get hung up on the little things that may go awry in our lives but to embrace each day with excitement and enthusiasm and the challenge to pass along a good intention or even a smile. I truly believe that if your priorities, whatever they may be, are kept in order, they will only allow us to live life to the fullest. 

Dan Murray -N- Settler's Hill G.C.
(continued from page 8)

knowledge, Dan nailed down his first superintendent's job at Kishwaukee C.C.

Dan's biggest accomplishment to date is his family. Married for twenty-two years to his wife Jill, they raised three children: Shaun, 18; Kelly, 16; and Kyle, 13. In the evenings these days, Dan can be found on the soccer field doing Pele impersonations with his children. In the winter, you can find him snowmobiling across the snowless cornfields of DeKalb. 



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DATES TO REMEMBER

September 12-17 — U. S. Senior Amateur at Skokie C.C.

September 14 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Settler's Hill G.C.

September 24 — Field Day at Cantigny Test Green at 3 p.m.

September 29 — Northern Golf Day, The Links at Carillon

October 13 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Seven Bridges G.C.

December 1-3 — NCTE, Pheasant Run Resort

From Brian Bossert: We had an excellent turnout on a steamy July 20 at Hughes Creek Golf Club. Congratulations to David Braasch on the excellent and rapidly improving condition of the golf course. Our winners in the annual Senior Championship included Ken Goodman (low gross super senior) with a 74 and Albie Staudt (low net super senior). The senior winners were Jim McNair (low gross) with an 85 and Wally Fuchs (low net). Is it me, or does something not seem quite right about McNair being a senior? He looks good for someone that OLD! Lastly, Chuck Anfield won the regular flight with a 72, and John Turner took the low net prize.

Since September is our golf outing to pick the MAGCS

champions, here is a picture from 25+ years ago from the late 1970s of Peter Voykin, winner of the Regular Championship, and Bob Williams, winner of the Senior Championship, held at the Flossmoor C.C.



1998 Northern Golf Day Scheduled

Chicago . . . This year's Northern Golf Day will be held Tuesday, September 29, at The Links at Carillon in south suburban Plainfield, IL.

"The annual event, to be hosted by club superintendent Renny Jacobsen, will help raise funds for the turf research fund of the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation," according to Golf Day Chairman John Turner.

A Northern Golf Day feature is the awarding of the Dom Grotti trophy to the golf course superintendent and assistant superintendent who achieve the best combined low net score. The 1997 defenders of the Dom Grotti trophy are Randy Wahler and Javier Vega of Knollwood Club.

Registration is open; both four-somes and single players are

welcome. For registration information, contact the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, 104 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60603, or telephone 312-201-0101.

Ooops. We need to make a correction from the July issue. Dave Braasch received his BS degree from the turfgrass program of Dr. Ken Diesburg at Southern Illinois University. It was incorrectly reported that David was a graduate from another university.

Assistant Grounds Foreman position is open at Western Acres G.C. Two years experience required and must possess or obtain an Illinois Pesticide Applicator License with turf and ornamental classifications. Send resume to: Lombard Park District, 227 W. Parkside Ave., Lombard, IL 60148-2592. Position closes September 25. Contact is Kevin Ingram, 630-469-6076.

If anyone is looking for barley straw, contact Mike Keast, 815-227-5988.

Bob Lively at McHenry C.C. is the first in the Chicagoland area to have installed a Toro LTC, plus he has the first AMIAD filter and pump monitor.

The following notes are from Dudley Smith:

Wayne Otto hosted the Penn State turf graduates at Ozaukee C.C. in Mequin, WI, on Monday, July 13. The large undulating greens were lightning fast, and the course record was never in jeopardy. The annual golf outing was a fund raiser for the Musser International Turf Foundation.

(continued on page 32)