

What's Happening In Golf Facility Development

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Golf Course Development 1980

Golf course openings across the country during 1980 show a slight improvement over 1979 with 132 and 125 openings respectively.

The leading states among the 132 courses reported open in 1980 were Florida, 26; California, 12; Arizona, 11; South Carolina, 9; Texas, 8; Michigan, 7; and Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota, each with 5.

Leading states in 1979 were Florida, 15; California, 14; Michigan, 10; Ohio, 8; Illinois and Texas each with 6; North Carolina and Pennsylvania each with 4.

New golf course construction starts reported for 1980 were 115; there were 147 in 1979. Of the 115 new courses reported under construction, 55 were additions to existing facilities. New golf course prospects decreased from 130 in 1979 to 83 in 1980. NGF records reveal that on January 1, 1981 there were 391 courses in some state of construction.

The decrease cited above can be attributed in part to the increasing development costs due to high inflation and continuing high interest rates. Like other business enterprises, golf facilities will not, and should not, be built when it is not economically feasible to do so.

The leading states with new golf course starts in 1980 were Florida (24), Michigan (15), California (7), New York (6), Arkansas and South Carolina (5 each), and Arizona, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin (4 each).

An analysis of golf facility activity in the nation for 1980 reveals that Florida is the big leader with 76 projects when combining courses openings, construction starts and prospects. ■

Florida Turf-Grass Association Elects New Officers and Directors

New Officer and Directors were elected recently at the 28th Annual Conference and Show of the Florida Turf-Grass Association. Serving as President will be James D. Carter, President of Bingham Seed Company, Inc., Jacksonville; Vice President is Dan Jones, Superintendent at Banyan Golf Club, West Palm Beach. Serving his second term as Secretary-Treasurer is Paul L. Deets, Marketing Manager for Woodbury Chemical Company, Mount Dora. Harvey E. Phillips is the Immediate Past President.

New Board Members include: Stephen E. Baeumel, Director of Golf Course Operations for the City of Pompano Beach; Max A. Brown, Ph. D., turfgrass consultant, Plantation; and Michael J. McLaughlin, Sales Manager of DeBra Turf and Industrial Equipment Company, Tampa. Re-elected were: E. E. "Mack" Baugh, superintendent of Longboat Key Golf & Tennis Club and Gerald Millholen, Agronomist/Sales, Southern Turf Nurseries, Brandon. Returning Board Members are: Michael T. Ayer, Quandt, Ayer & Associates, Tampa, Jim Hamilton, Zuan Equipment, Inc., St. Petersburg; John P. Hayden, San Jose Country Club, Jacksonville; W. Timothy Hiers, Suntree Country Club, Melbourne; Thomas M. Latta, Ph.D., Florida Aquatic Weed Control, Inc., Fort Lauderdale; Leroy Phillips, Green Glove Corporation, Fort Pierce; Lloyd D. Purdy, Jr., A. Duda & Sons, Oviedo; Michael Swanson, Pursley Turf Farms, Palmetto; and William G. Wagner, Tequesta Country Club, Tequesta.

The turf industry in Florida has been valued in excess of \$534 million. The Florida Turf-Grass Association was founded in 1953 and is dedicated to education and research.

The 29th Annual Conference and Show will be held at the Sheraton Towers Hotel, Orlando, October 18-21, 1981. ■

No Superintendents Meeting

The second annual Palm Beach "no superintendent" meeting was a huge success. At this unique meeting sponsored by the Palm Beach Chapter, no golf course superintendents were allowed to attend. The meeting is an all day education session for golf course assistants, foremen, irrigation technicians, mechanics, and other leading staff members. Also attending were several golf pros and a greens committee member. Attendance was 82, with over 40 clubs represented. Attendance figures showed neighboring South Florida and Treasure Coast Chapters were represented. The most amazing statistic is that attendance was still 82 at the end of the all day session. That figure would not be achieved at a "regular superintendent meeting." Match that gentlemen!!!! (Continued on Page 26)



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