

What's Happening In Golf Facility Development

By HARRY C. ECKHOFF

Director Information Services, National Golf Foundation

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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Mole Cricket Alert

Information compiled
By UDAY K. YADAV
Florida Cooperative Extension Service

It is that time of year when you folks are hassled with those cute little critters called mole crickets. Estimates indicate mole cricket population is once again on the rise in Central Florida. The presence of mole crickets is indicated by burrows in soil, loose soil, uprooted seedlings, and damaged roots.

The major mole crickets found in Florida on bahia grass, zoysia grass, and bermuda grass are the southern mole cricket (*scapteriscus acletus* R.) and the Puertorican mole cricket (*scapteriscus vicinus* scudd). Mole crickets are odd, velvety, greenish-brownish creatures, 1½" long. Has short forelegs and shovel-like feet with large beady eyes. They live in the soil and even one cricket can cause severe damage on a lawn in a short time by loosening the soil and feeding on grass roots. They are active nocturnally, prefer humid conditions, and a temperature above 70°F. During warm humid conditions especially after a rain or irrigation, they can be found on the soil surface gathering bits of food. They lay eggs in the spring, usually in underground cells which hatch in about two weeks during April or May. The nymphs become adults by fall. The mole crickets have only one generation per year.

Control

Under proper temperature (above 65°N) and moisture conditions mole crickets can be controlled by sprays, granules or baits. Proper timing, proper frequency (two applications 10 days to 2 weeks apart) and proper application are important. Several golf courses have been very successful in controlling mole crickets during late May or early June when nymphs are still very small. A mole cricket bait (0.5% to 2%) containing Baygon, Dursban or Toxaphene applied during July and August has provided satisfactory control. Recently, best results have been obtained with 5% granules of Mocap. As far as we know, Scott's brand is the only formulation of Mocap that has mole crickets included on the label. More information on the availability of this product can be obtained through O.M. Scott's representative, Mr. Keith Webster. His telephone number is (813) 644-1606. Mocap is a restricted pesticide and is recommended for commercial use only. ■

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No Superintendents Meeting

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Joe Konwinski, retired area superintendent and Palm Beach Junior College turf instructor, moderated the program. The session was held at the Palm Beach Junior College, Lake Worth campus. Otis Harvey, Dean of Continued Education, and Fred Hollings, Coordinator of Continued Education, supplied the superb facility.

A variety of subjects were covered. Dr. Max Brown, Liquid Ag Systems; spoke on all types of fertilizer and the turfgrass nutritional need. Bob Fretz, head sales representative, and Tom Peyton, service manager, from Trail Ford Tractor Company discussed diesel and gas engine repairs and maintenance. Bob Lewis, service manager for Mity Mite Motors, reviewed small engine trouble shooting and repair. Cliff Quinn, Rainbird Irrigation, explained irrigation design, installation and repair. Chuck Ankrom, golf course architect, discussed golf course design and construction. He also reviewed his recent trip to Scotland with excellent slides of their courses. Many whispers of disbelief were heard in the audience about the contrast between "true golf" and the American version.

Next year's program is already being planned. Next year make sure your staff is part of this success story. ■

Let's Tip Our Hats to the Areas's Golf Course Superintendents

By VINCE SMITH

The year 1980 has been a spectacular period for golf growth in Southwest Florida and the bulk of the game's incredible expansion has come in the area of development-type facilities.

The architects of these fine new lower Gulf Coast playing facilities and the club professionals who will oversee the actual golfing operations have been duly acknowledged from time to time.

There is, however, one segment of the technicians whose work in making these new outdoor playing arenas an instrumental part of our lifestyle who still do not receive adequate recognition.

The body of men so integral to a successful golf course program is the golf course superintendents who supply such vital input into bringing these new facilities up to good playing standards.

Bob Sanderson, golf course superintendent at Port Charlotte Country Club and the prime moving factor behind the increasing ascendancy of the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association, dropped a gentle reminder several weeks ago that the superintendents at these new clubs should not go unnoticed.

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