



September/October 1991

No. 18, East Course, at JDM, Palm Beach Gardens.



BallenIsles Country Club

Meeting the nutrient needs of turf and ornamentals.

LESCO has a fertilizer to meet your regional and cultural requirements, whether your turfgrass responsibilities include maintaining a golf course, athletic fields or residential/ commercial landscapes.

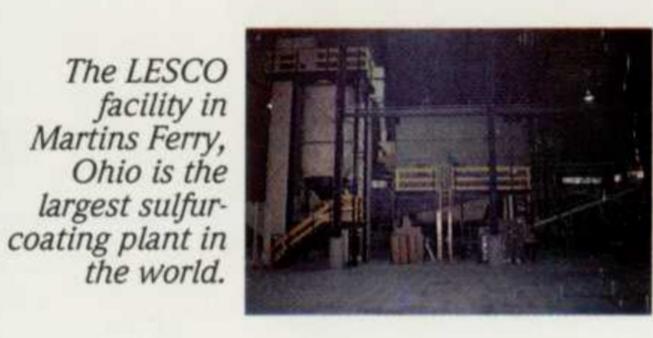
LESCO fertilizers feature sulfur-coated urea as a nitrogen source because years of research and performance have proven it to be the most efficient and economical form

of controlledrelease nitrogen.

We also offer sulfurcoated diammonium



phosphate as a phosphorus source and sulfur-coated



sulfate of potash as a source for potas-

sium to increase efficiency and safety of these nutrient sources.

Leading the industry in sulfur-coating technology and production.

LESCO was the first commercial producer of sulfur-coated urea in the United States and to this day is one of only a few producers in the world.

Today we produce sulfurcoated fertilizers at our stateof-the-art facility in Martins

Ferry, Ohio. The plant is fully automated for greater efficiencies in manufacturing and for a consistently uniform,

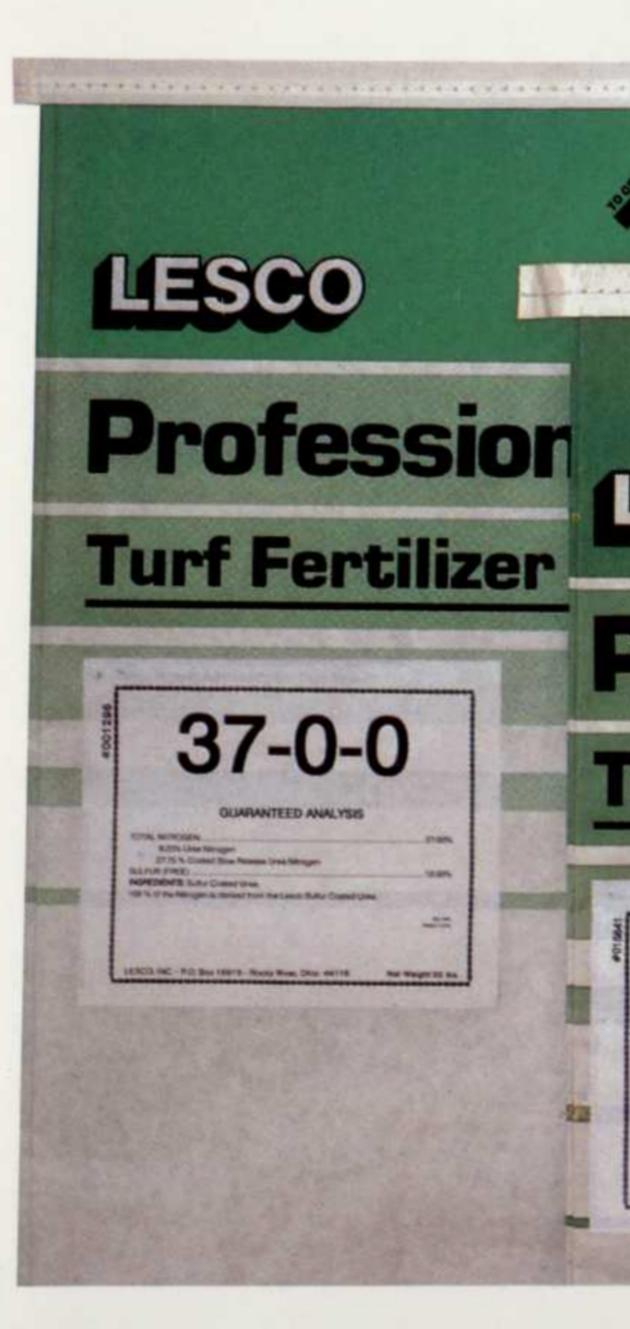
The LESCO facility at Marproducts are shipped to

quality product. This enables us to offer our fertilizers at competitive prices. tins Ferry is the largest sulfurcoating plant in the world. Its

fertilizer users worldwide.

The sulfur-coating technology was developed as a means of

slowly releasing plant nutrients from water soluble sources over an extended period of time. The coating process involves spraying fertilizer particles with molten sulfur and then applying a



Sealant____

Sulfur_

Conditioner_

coat of sealant. As the particles are cooled, a conditioning agent is added to keep the particles free flowing. The last step is a screening process that ensures uniform particle size.

Fertilizer

The slow-release characteristic of a sulfur-coated fertilizer is determined by the thickness of the -----coating. Nutrients are released from sulfur-coated fertilizer by diffusion through pores in the coating and by natural breakdown of the coating.

LESCO

Professional

And though \$5 1.00

Turf Fertilizer

21-4-11

This cross section illustrates the typical composition of sulfur-coated fertilizer granule.

LESCO

Professional

Turf Fertilizer

32-5-7

Offering the most sulfurcoated fertilizer options in the industry.

By sulfur-coating different sized particles, LESCO has developed three distinct granular fertilizer product lines: Elite, Mini and Standard in a variety of analyses. Whether the turfgrass is a low-cut golf course putting green or a highcut utility area, LESCO has a fertilizer that's right for the job.

LESCO formulates products for regional and seasonal needs and recommends fertilizers based on agronomic and cultural requirements.

LESCO Landscape & Ornamental Fertilizers.

LESCO Landscape & Ornamental Fertilizers are designed with a thicker sulfur coating for a much longer feeding duration than turf fertilizers. They feature 100 percent sulfurcoated nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium to provide superior nutrient availability and safety during all stages of ornamental plant production and maintenance. The steady, gradual nutrient release insures efficient uptake by plant roots.



LESCO Custom-Blended Fertilizers

If our wide selection of standard fertilizers doesn't meet your needs, LESCO can custom-blend a fertilizer to meet your specifications. We can design fertilizers in a wide range of high analyses and high performance blends. Nutrient sources and release rates can be custom selected. Micronutrient packages can also be custom de-

signed.

LESCO can also custom formulate and package private label fertilizer blends.

Delivering the benefits of sulfurcoated fertilizer.

Sulfur-coated fertilizers have several advantages over conventional watersoluble fertilizers. They offer slower and more controlled release of nutrients over a longer period of time for a more uniform growth response and a lower burn potential. There is also significantly reduced risk of volatilization, run-off or leaching from the root zone.

This slow-release feature enables you to make fewer applications at a higher rate, saving time and labor. Also, a more consistent growth rate reduces mowing requirements and the need to collect unsightly clippings.

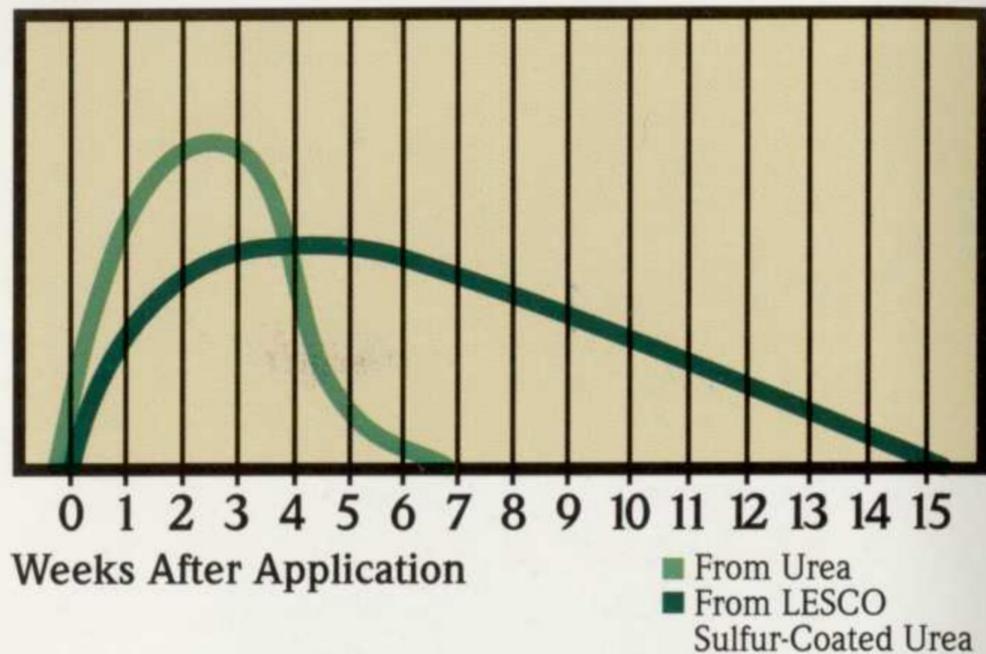
LESCO sulfur-coated fertilizers are produced in a uniform particle size that minimizes segregation in blends.

Sulfur-coated fertilizers also offer benefits over other slow-

release nutrient sources. For example, there is no significant delay in nutrient release following application so you begin to see results more quickly.

Nutrient release from sulfurcoated fertilizers is not adversely affected by excessive rainfall, irrigation or soil pH. It is also not dependent upon warm soil temperatures or bacterial activity.

Typical Growth Response

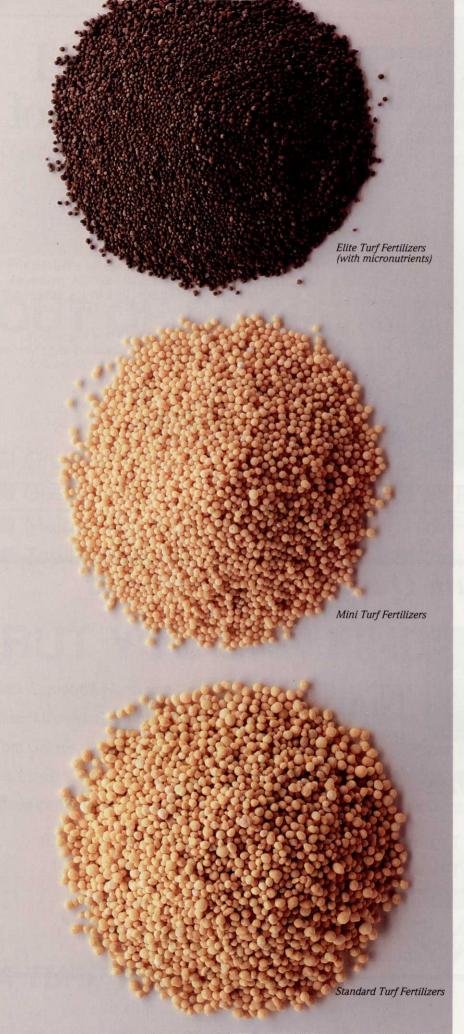


Buying results: fertilizers that work.

You can count on LESCO sulfur-coated fertilizers to perform. And you can count on the experts at LESCO to help you with all of your turfgrass challenges. Our team of fertilizer and seed specialists, golf course specialists and lawn care specialists are accessible and ready to help.

You can also be sure of the availability of LESCO fertilizers. Our products are warehoused in over fifty locations across the U.S. to serve your needs.

Contact your LESCO sales representative or call toll free (800) 321-5325 for more information on fertilizers or any other LESCO product.



LESCO fertilizer granules are formulated with a variety of phosphorus and potassium sources and are also available with iron, manganese and other micronutrients.

LESCO Elite Turf Fertilizers

This is the smallest particle size available and is designed for the most demanding turf management programs with turf cut below one-half inch. LESCO Elite Fertilizers provide 11 times as many particles per given area as the standard LESCO products.

The Elite Fertilizers are especially well-suited for use on golf course greens and tees or fairways cut with lightweight mowers. Particle size and density virtually eliminate mower pickup. **LESCO Mini Turf Fertilizers**

The Mini Turf Fertilizers are designed for more demanding turf management programs with turf cut above one-half inch. They provide three times as many particles per given area as the Standard LESCO products.

LESCO Standard Turf Fertilizers

Designed for most turf management programs with turf cut above one inch, LESCO Standard Turf Fertilizers are produced in a wide array of analyses.

For more information contact your LESCO Sales Representative or call toll free (800) 321-5325. In Cleveland, call (216) 333-9250.



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FLORIDA GOLF SUMMIT GOV. CHILES WILL BE THERE, TOO10 The second annual Florida Golf Summit has been scheduled Oct. 3-4 at the Hyatt Regency in Tampa. The subject is water and the golf industry is all ears.

HANDS ON HOW RIDGE SUPERINTENDENTS PRACTICE OVERSEEDING ... 30 Continuing a serial feature on how and why golf turf is cared for, Editor Joel Jackson reviews techniques of overseeding employed by Ridge GCSA members.

GREEN PAGES FEDS HAD GLOWING REMARKS ABOUT GOLF COURSES38 A GCSAA-sponsored forum of federal environmental officials and golf industry leaders resulted in each interest becoming more aware of the other's point of view.

The Florida Green

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Welcome!

The following companies are advertising in *The Florida Green* for the first time:

URFGRASS QUIZ



Please see Page 33 for the answer.

Standing water on a Florida fairway with poor unplayable turf. This problem might spring up, especially with the abundance of rain we've had this summer. What's your prognosis?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the newly-elected president of the FGCSA I must say that it is an honor and privilege to be selected for this position. I will endeavor to perform the functions of

Don't fail your profession and your future join FGCSA for the battle, today my office in a manner that will be for the betterment of all members of our association. As with all associations, we have both good and bad news. I will be sharing these news items with you for the next few moments.

Some good news. Our research green we jointly built with IFAS in Fort Lauderdale is doing great. There were funds donated by virtually all the local chapters to this green this year, placing it on firm financial footing. This a prime example of how we are working with the public sector to perform tests, carry out programs, evaluate product, all to gather technical information we can understand and use that is relevant to what Florida needs.

Some more good news is our membership rolls continue to expand. With the addition of our newest chapter, Seven Rivers GCSA, we now have 11 local chapters. The final member count last year was 750. We hope this number will increase during the next 12 months.

Our publication committee continues to perform the same high level of service we have grown accustomed to. The total commitment of the editors and staff keeps our magazines and other periodicals the envy of other state organizations.

The education committee has done a bang-up job the past year. The workshops and seminars we have put on and are scheduling for the upcoming year will provide valuable ideas and information to help us do our jobs better.

Tim Hiers' government relations committee is finishing work on a regulatory compliance package. This program, when completed, will allow for your facility to be audited by fellow superintendents for compliance with the major state regulations. This is a program administered by your peers to prevent you from being cited and fined by a state agency for noncompliance. Ignorance of the rules is not going to keep you out of hot water.

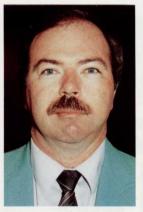
The bad news. The golf course industry is coming under fire from all sides. Now they are even talking about taking away our water rights. Some want us to pay to dispose of the public waste. We are taking our stand and drawing the line and we need all the support the industry can muster. It is now or never for this industry; we need all golf courses to become members of the FGCSA, the Florida Golf Council, and the FTGA. Together, perhaps, we can change attitudes and protect ourselves from erroneous thinking and bad law.

To sit idly by and not participate is unprofessional and suicidal. If we lose this battle we will have only ourselves to blame.

I implore all golf clubs who receive this publication to become active, join your sister clubs in these efforts. The small amount of money to become members in these associations is peanuts compared to what you will be paying if we fail in our goals.

There are a lot of clubs that receive this magazine that are not members of any of the above organizations. We all are working for the same cause and we will all feel the ramifications if we simply sit back and fail to participate. Send in your membership today, become active, investigate what we are about. I think you will agree that we are worthy of your support.

Tom



Tom Benefield, CGCS FGCSA President

Par Ex Keeps Working When Mother Nature Stops Other Fertilizers Cold.

The days are growing shorter, and the first blast of cold weather is just around the corner — perfect conditions for a late-season application of Par Ex.®



Even when there's a hard frost around the corner, it's the perfect time for late-season fertilization.

Most competitive fertilizers rely on warm temperatures or bacterial activity to release their nitrogen. So when cold weather hits and bacterial activity stops, they become inactive and ineffective.

But Par Ex with its exclusive IBDU[®] slow release nitrogen goes on about its business, slowly activating controlled portions of nitrogen until the soil

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actually freezes. That's because Par Ex releases its nitrogen through hydrolysis, a process triggered by moisture rather than temperature and bacterial activity.

The result is extended greening of your turf into fall and winter. And a healthier root and rhizome system with increased carbohydrates, to reduce the potential for cold damage and stimulate an earlier green-up in the spring.

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P.O. Box 512, Winter Haven, Florida, 33882-0512. There's more than just a few degrees of difference.



TURF NEWS

ROUNDUP



Meeting recently in West Palm Beach were ITS organizers of the next International Research Conference. They are (front I-r) Dick Schmidt, VPI; George Snyder and John Cisar, IFAS; (back I-r) Tom Mascaro, Turf-Tec of Fort Lauderdale; Francis Lamaire, INRA, France; Yoshishuke Maki, MAK Turfgrass Doctors International, Japan; Hasashi Yanagi, Toyo Green Co., Ltd., Japan.

Photo by Kit Bradshav

glades agricultural area; the moderation of bentgrass greens at the Loxahatchee Club in Palm Beach County; the integration of wetlands in a golf course at Old Marsh and the water control system at Joe Robbie Stadium. There's a lot of unique turf usage in Florida," Cisar said.

A call for scholarly papers went out earlier this month. Many papers not selected for formal presentation at the conference will be compiled for distribution at the conference. All presentations will be in English.

Program topics will include environmental impact of turf; pesticide and nutrient fate in turf systems; the biocontrol approach to controlling diseases and insects; advances in turfgrass management; environmental forecasting of pest responses; xeriscaping; turfgrass adaptation in the southern U.S.; soil testing technologies; and turfgrass root research.

The week-long conference is only part of the package, Cisar said. Pre- and post-conference tours of the South and possibly the seed production areas of Oregon and Washington are also in the planning stages.

Conference planners are encouraging attendees to bring their families.

"The Breakers is an ideal place for a family vacation and we are working with the resort to create special programs for spouses and children," Cisar said.

Others attending the July planning session include Jim Watson, retired vice president of Toro and president of the society; Dick Schmidt of VPI,

ALSO

Water issues will be the focus of the Second Annual Golf Summit scheduled Oct. 3-4 at the Hyatt Regency in Tampa... 10

International turfgrass conference slated for Palm Beach, July '93

The International Turfgrass Society will host its International Research Conference in the United States in 1993. The last conference took place in Japan in 1989.

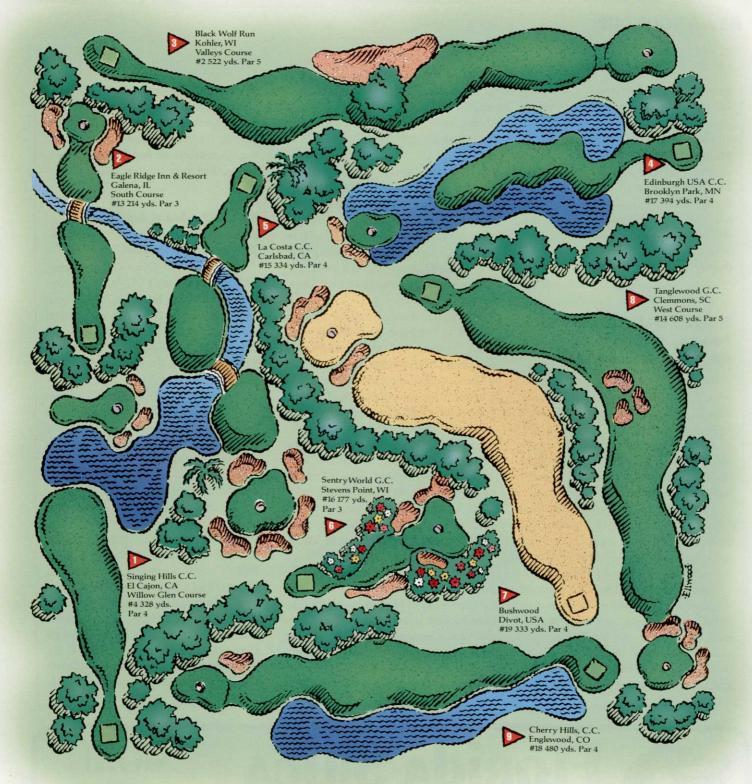
Based on attendance at past conferences, program organizers anticipate more than 800 participants from more than 20 countries will come to the Breakers Resort and Hotel in Palm Beach the third week of July, 1993.

This past July, members of the organizing committee and society toured various turfgrass sites in South Florida before approving the conference location.

John Cisar, assistant professor of turfgrass management for the University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, and George Snyder, professor of soil chemistry at the Everglades REC, are organizing committee cochairmen.

Cisar said the ITS chose South Florida because it is relatively accessible for attendees from around the world and it offers world-class resorts. Equally important, it also has a wide variety of warmseason turfgrasses available for field trips and it is a battleground for many environmental issues.

"The tour we gave them showed them sand and muck soil production of turfgrass in the Ever-



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treasurer; John Hall III of VPI, secretary; Bill Meyer of Turf-Seed, Inc. of Oregon, chairman of the finance committee; Robert Carrow of the University of Georgia, program committee chairman; society directors William Adams of the United Kingdom; Peter McMaugh of Australia; Francis Lemaire of France; Hasashi Yanagi and Yoshishuke Maki of Japan and Mark Welterlen, editor of *Grounds Maintenance Magazine* and chairman of the publicity committee.

-Kit Bradshaw

Florida Golf Summit in Tampa, Oct. 3-4 to focus on water regulations

Water issues will be the focus of the second annual Florida Golf Summit scheduled Oct. 3-4 at the Hyatt Regency in Tampa.

The conference, sponsored by the yearold Florida Golf Council, will take place in conjunction with the state's 16th annual Water Management Conference.

Among the speakers expected are Gov. Lawton Chiles, representatives of each of the five water management districts and golf course architects Ed Seay of Arnold Palmer Course Design and Tom Fazio.

Session topics will include contract negotiations for re-used water, water conservation regulation and other tax-related issues.

Registration will be \$250 for Florida Golf Council members (\$175 for each additional employee), and \$300 for nonmembers (\$225 for each additional employee).

For more information, contact Jack Mathis at 407-688-0800.

Research Foundation needs \$125,000 more for goals

The Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation must raise an additional \$125,000 within the next year — \$25,000 of it by Nov. 15 — to meet all of its funding goals through 1992, according to a letter to all FTGA members from Executive Director Bob Yount.

The Nov. 15 deadline applies to money needed to complete the \$100,000 G.C. Horn Fellowship Fund. If the Horn endowment is fully funded by that time, the FTRF can apply for a \$50,000 matching grant from the State of Florida. The Horn Fellowship Fund, honoring the late turfgrass professor at the University of Florida, will finance post-graduate students at the University of Florida.

The FTRF's Arnold Palmer Endowment Program "will require an additional \$100,000 to support the anticipated research grants, scholarship and commitments for 1992," wrote Yount. "We need to increase this fund quickly."

Yount mentioned the need to equip the Envirotron turgrass research facility at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Construction is expected to start later this year. Computers, microscopes and other laboratory instruments will probably have to be donated, he said, because "further budget cuts have been made at all educational levels."

Equipment frequently is easier for companies to donate than cash, Yount said, adding, "The slow economy has had some negative effects on our funding efforts, but we feel very positive about our future."

GCSAA's John Schilling among Golf Digest's list of 36 most powerful in golf

Architects Pete Dye and Tom Fazio, EPA Administrator William K. Reilly, President George Bush, GCSAA Executive Director John Schilling and National Golf Foundation President Joe Beditz are among the 36 most powerful people in golf, according to the September issue of *Golf Digest*.

Deane Beman, PGA Tour Commissioner, topped the list of people who, in the opinion of *GolfDigest*'s editors, "have the capability and the option of acting in ways that have an effect on both phases of the game — the big-money, show-business side, and the game we all play."

Golf Digest's 36 Most Powerful People in Golf are:

 Deane Bernan - PGA Tour Commissioner 2. Mark McCormack - International Management Group 3. Jack Nicklaus - Professional golfer/golf course architect 4. David Fay - USGA executive director 5. Arnold Palmer -Professional golfer/golf course design 6. Karsten Solheim - Clubmaker (Ping) 7. Jackson T. Stephens - Masters tournament chairman 8. Michael Bonalleck - Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews secretary 9. Dan Rostenkowski - U.S. Congressman 10. Robern Dedman - Club Corporation of America founder/chairman 11.



THE FLORIDA GREEN

"Cobra was an experiment at first, but it just beat Penncross hands down. That made the decision to switch easy."

- Karl Jacob, Superintendent Black Diamond Ranch

Cobra creeping bentgrass does it all for Karl Jacob on the Tom Fazio-designed course at Lecanto, Florida. Here's what Karl says about Cobra:

"Cobra's rate of germination is fantastic ... at least 80 percent germination in 10 days and at least 95 percent in 14 days. Penncross couldn't give me results like that."

"With Cobra my greens are playable in half the time and they look better than ever before." "Cobra's deep green color makes the whole course look great."

"There's no question about it: Cobra is an all-around better bentgrass...color, appearance, putting surface, you name it."

Superintendents like Karl who believe "appearance and quality are Number 1" are moving to Cobra with good reason.



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Minoru Isutania - Pebble Beach owner 12. Lee Trevino -Professional golfer 13. Pete Dye - Golf Couse architect 14. William K. Reilly - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator 15. George Bush - President of the United States 16. Ralph Maltby - The Golf Works owner 17. De. De Windt-PGA Tour's Policy Board chairman 18. Greg Norman - Professional golfer 19. Tom Fazio - Golf course architect 20. Grant Spaeth - USGA president 21. Bobby Jones - Golf leaend 22. Ken Scholfield - PGA European Tour executive director 23. Frank Chirkinian -CBS Golf producer 24. Tim Finchem - PGA Tour deputy commissioner/COO 25. Gordon Jeffrey - R&A general committee chairman 26. Hughes Norton - International Management Group senior vice president 27. Nancy Lopez - Professional golfer 28. Charles Mechan - LPGA commissioner 29. Peter Alliss - TV commentator 30. Judy Bell - USGA executive committee member 31. Jim Awtrey - PGA of America executive director 32. John M. Schilling - GCSAA executive director 33. Roger Maxwell -Marriott Golf vice president of golf operations and development 34. Joe Beditz - National Golf Foundation president/CEO 35. Leonard Decof - Legal counsel for Karsten Solheim 36. Joe Jemsek - Chicago club pro.

USGA \$4.1 million grant extends research programs through 1997

The USGA has extended the turfgrass research program begun in 1982 with a \$4.1 million appropriation for projects to be conducted through 1997.

The money will fund research projects, still to be selected, in plant improvement and resource management. The former approriation includes turfgrass breeding and biotechnology; the latter includes cultural practices, biotechnology and pest management.

A request for "pre-proposals" will be sent to university researchers next month and final decisions on projects to be funded will be made by the Turfgrass Research Committee in March.

In the final round of awards for the previous USGA program, University of Florida researchers at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center received funding for two projects at the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Memorial Research Green on the FLREC campus.

Among the objectives of the original 10-year research program was the significant reduction of water use and maintenance costs by breeding new grasses and developing improved cultural maintenance practices.

Two improved turfgrass varieties, NuMex Sahara bermudagrass and NE 84-609 buffalograss are now available for use on golf courses and other turf areas as a result of USGA funding.

Much of the background work has been accomplished with the breeding programs sponsored by the USGA and the organization expects more varieties to be released this decade.

During the next five-year phase of the program, emphasis will be placed on developing grasses and cultural maintenance practices that conserve natural re-

Active A a control a contr

free surveys

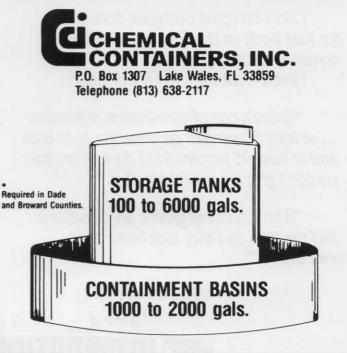
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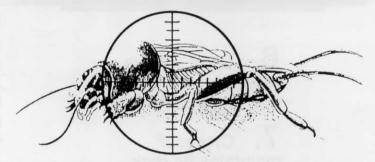
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By extending the funding of the turfgrass research program for a five-year period, the USGA hopes to ensure continued high standards for the maintenance of golf courses while addressing environmental concerns about the protection and conservation of natural resources.

Tennessee golf course gets Audobon honor

The Honors Course in Ooltewah, Tenn., site of the U.S. Amateur Championship last month, has become the first golf course recognized for its conservation and preservation efforts under the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. The course was awarded an original oil painting by Adriano Manocchio depicting a vew of the ninth hole, capturing its natural habitat, nest boxes, and wildlife.

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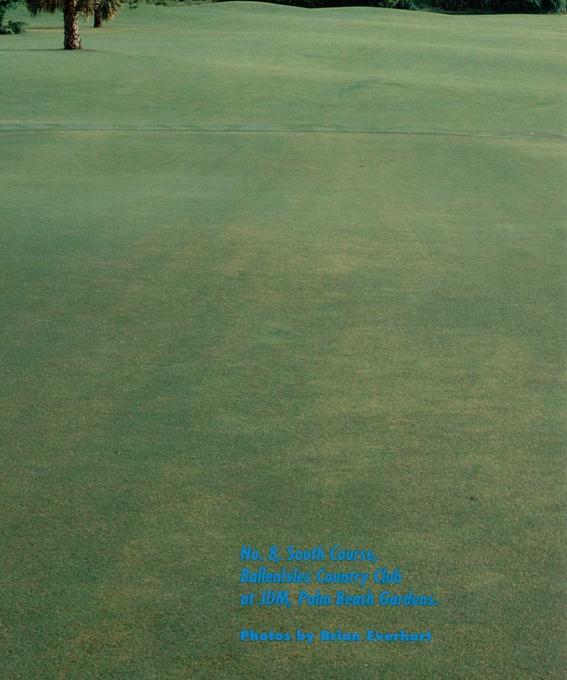
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Tom Benefield -

No. 7, South Course, Ballenisles Country Club at JDM, Palm Beach Gardens.

He works on cutting edge of profession

BY KIT BRADSHAW

hese are crucial times for Florida golf course superin-

tendents. The politics of water conservation and environmental protection make golf courses an easy target for governmental shenanigans, even if the bureaucrats are misinformed, which can be expected.

Tom Benefield Jr., newly-installed president of the FGCSA, is both knowledgeable and articulate about the politically-sensitive issues facing golf course ownership and superintendents. He is now in the right place at the right time to lead his fellow superintendents toward correcting misconceptions and misinformation about golf courses and their benefits to the state.

He knows the objections that have been raised against golf courses and more importantly, he knows the answers to those objections and can communicate them.

Intelligent, experienced, well-organized, focused, tough and tenacious: these are all qualities that make up the man who now directs his attention toward proving the positive worth and value of golf courses in the Florida environ-

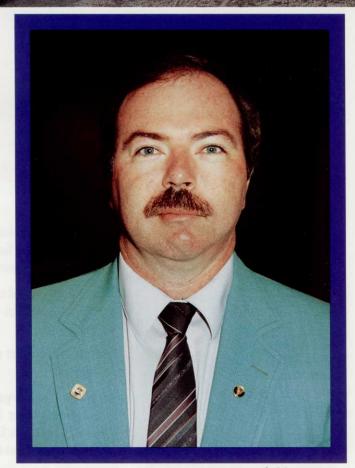


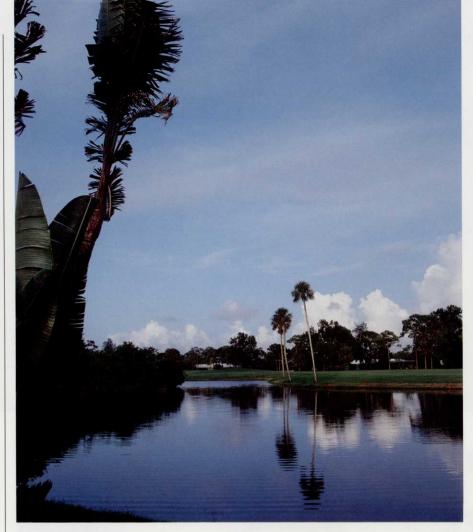
Photo by Philip Pettus

Tom Benefield, CGCS president of the FGCSA

mental scheme.

Tom's background gives clues to his ability to transform apparent weaknesses into strength.

When Tom Benefield was in the fourth grade he stut-



Tom Benefield, CGCS



Age: 37

Education: Graduated from Lake City Community College with a degree in Golf Course Operations. Certified Golf Course Superintendent, GCSAA.

Current Position: Golf course superintendent at BallenIsles Country Club at JDM, Palm Beach Gardens.

Professional: President of FGCSA, previously vice president.

Previous employment: Assistant superintendent at River Oaks CC, Houston; Superintendent at Willow Creek CC, Beaumont, Texas; superintendent Sun Air CC, Dundee, Fla.; superintendent, Beacon Woods, near Spring Hill, Fla.

Family: Married to Deborah Eileen. They have a son, Joshua, 9.

No. 8, East Course, Ballenisles Country Club at JDM, Palm Beach Gardens.

tered constantly. But through the efforts of his teacher, who helped him overcome his stuttering through music, he went on to become a debater and a parliamentarian in high school.

At a previous job, Benefield was the 10th superintendent in six years at Beacon Woods near Spring Hill, Fla. "Two weeks after I came to Beacon Woods," he said, "my greens chairman was upset with me and some of the things I was doing. He told me, 'You weren't my choice. I didn't vote for you.'

"When I left four years later, he came back to me and said, 'Even though you weren't my choice, I think you've done a hell of a job here.'

"It was good to have someone who was totally against you change his perspective on how he views your job and win him over."

B enefield doesn't quit easily. And he realizes that one of his goals as the FGCSA's new president — getting a state professional licensing program for golf course superintendents — is going to be controversial.

"It will anger some people," he said matter-of-factly. "But it will make others happy. About 75 percent of the superintendents will be able to qualify for a license. About 20 to 25 percent won't qualify and they'll be upset.

"It will also affect people moving into Florida from other states. You will have to show that you have knowledge of Florida conditions to work here. And when the licensing program is in effect, every golf course would be required to have a licensed superintendent on the staff."

Benefield has some solid reasons behind his push for licensing. "It's strange to me that you have to have a license to cut hair, but not to deal with water recharge areas, the aquifer, pesticides and so on. I think it's something that's been needed for a long time."

Benefield said the logical way for licensing criteria to be created would be for the FGCSA to work with the DER,



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"The licensing program could encompass a grandfather clause. There are a lot of people who don't have the education, but who are among the best superintendents in the state. So they could be grandfathered in," he said.

Along with licensing would be an institute for continuing education through the FGCSA, where superintendents would attend educational programs one day every three months to stay abreast of the regulations.

"We have the structure through the education committee," Benefield said. "The biggest problem is to get the superintendents to agree it needs to be done." Benefield realizes this won't be easily achieved, but he said he enjoys challenges.

To some extent, he's been preparing for his presidency of the FGCSA since his days as a superintendent in Texas.

Jim Holub, superintendent at River Oaks CC in Houston, gave Benefield good grounding in the job skills necessary to be a good golf superintendent.

think the first person you work for out of school influences how you proceed through the rest of your career," Benefield said. "If you get the knowledge up front, you will do very well down the road. On the other hand, if you don't work for someone who is up on what needs to be done and has good practices and management ability, you will definitely have trouble down the road. Jim Holub helped me immensely."

When Benefield left River Oaks to become superintendent at Willow Creek CC in Beaumont, Texas, he learned two more valuable lessons: The course was being built out of reclaimed rice fields and Benefield learned the construction side of the business. And - he learned Spanish.

"I came in close contact with Spanishspeaking workers, many of whom didn't speak any English at all. So because of that experience, I have a fairly decent background in Spanish. This has been

beneficial."

At Sun Air Country Club in Dundee (near Grenelefe Resort), Benefield came across a totally different communication challenge. The course had one owner

who also owned an estate, orange grove, pasture lands and horse stables for his prized Arabians. Benefield was in

••...it is important for a golf course superintendent to learn to communicate with everyone... the members, the committee chairmen, the golf professional."

charge of the all these properties as well as the condominium ground.

"Having one owner really made it simple," he said. "It's probably the best situation. Basically, if you keep the owner happy, you'll be happy. If he's not happy, then you either make him happy or you look elsewhere."

And at Beacon Hill, where the ownership was split among members, Benefield still had other challenges, despite the previously-mentioned turnaround by the greens chairman.

"I think it's more difficult to have a club run by committees," he said, "because you have several people wanting you to do different things at the same time. Many of them came from different parts of the country and now they have to work together. That's a problem because they don't trust the employees. So you can get into a battle of egos between the greens chairman and the club president.

"This is the where it is important for a golf course superintendent to learn to communicate with everyone... the members, the committee chairmen, the golf professional.

Your pro can make or break you. There have been more golf course superintendents who have lost their jobs because they didn't communicate with their pro. I've always made a special effort, no matter where I've been, to build a special relationship with the pro. I think that this is what kept me at Beacon Woods for

four years."

"For example," he said, "you have a shotgun start at 7:30 in the morning, and 280 people are planning on playing golf that day. But you have rain or a frost, and

the tee times are delayed. Now someoneisgoing to miss his tee time that day, and he's not going to be happy. You

just can't leave the pro out there, all by himself. You have to go out there and face the members and talk to them. Then you've done your job.

"But a lot of superintendents would turn the other way. Then you've created a problem with your pro."

hen Benefield left Bea-con Woods for BallenIsles CC at JDM in Palm Beach Gardens, he knew he would be facing quite a different challenge.

JDM's three courses had existed since the mid 1960s and of the three, only the east and north sides of the East course had homes around it. The 1,300 acres was nearly pristine compared to other builtout development communities.

"The membership was very used to this type of course. There wasn't any place else around they could play in such a natural area," he said.

All this changed in 1988 when Hansen Inc. of Philadelphia negotiated with the McArthur Foundation to buy additional property with the intention of developing the acreage. In 1989, the North and South courses were reconfigured to allow for this residential development. Benefield came to BallenIsles in late 1989 and was well aware of the situation.

"First of all, you had members who had been there for 20 years and they've been used to the three courses with just a small amount of development. It didn't matter who was making the changes; all the members knew that someone was taking something away from them and they would never get it back. So one of the challenges was to keep the members happy and they did this by keeping one course open throughout the the course reconstruction by Joe Lee.

"The other problem was during the grow-in process. We had to get all the courses up to their potential as quickly as possible and that was a time-consuming, tedious process. And, we were doing the growing-in during the drought, and that made it even more difficult.

"Today there is still a challenge, every single day, " said Benefield."We want to get to the point where we're recognized as one of the best facilities in the area. One of the things we have done is create a landscape maintenance division that is involved with all the common areas, the community association areas and the residential lawns.

"As the number of homes increases, this division will increase in size as well. Right now, 20 to 30 percent of my budget is attributed to that area. In time, the percentage will be larger — double my



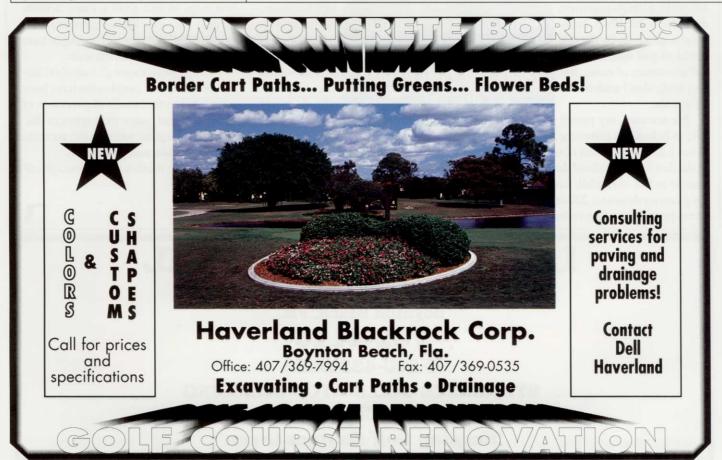
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golf course budget — because of the volume of homes that will be there."

BallenIsles also faces a problem which many golf courses in the state now face —

the availability of w a t e r . Benefield said it's vital that superintendents learn to articulate the

←Golf courses are being forced to take and to pay for more reclaimed water...?

value of a golf course to the water districts that create the water regulations.

"We're a big fat target sitting out there. We're a rich man's game... or we are perceived as such. So you have a lot of bad public perceptions that have to be overcome. We are being run roughshod over. We are being pushed into taking care of what is a community cost... recycling reclaimed water."

Benefield said the water situation has two problems of public perception.

"First of all, it's an educational pro-

cess for the board of directors of the water management districts to let them know what is going on in the real world of golf courses. They call us wasters of water, but they really don't understand we are not.

'For instance, my permit here at BallenIsles allows me

to use 5,232 acre- inches of water a year. In the first four months of this year, I got over 33 inches of rainfall. Everything on my property drains to 220 acres of lakes on my property. So I am recharging these 33 inches of rainfall. Let's say that instead of 33 inches of rainfall, it was only 10 inches. I have 1,300 acres here. That's 26,000 acre-inches of water that I'm re-

> charging back into the water table. I'm puttingback five times what I'm allowed to use.

"Golf courses aren't wasters of water, they are huge collection basins for rainfall. We're the exact opposite of someone who wastes water."

Then there's the matter of reclaimed water. Benefield believes golf course superintendents need all the com-

munication skills and the political awareness they can muster to correct erroneous assumptions by public officials.

"Golf courses are being forced to take and to pay for more reclaimed water," he said. "We are providing an

•They call us wasters

of water, but they

really don't understand

we are not.....

acceptable disposal method for the community's semi-hazardous waste. We

are willing to take the water, to distribute it on millions of dollars worth of land—land the community does not have to purchase to dis-

pose of the water. We are willing to use millions of dollars worth of irrigation systems and pump stations to get the water to our property. We are providing a service to the public. "For us to have to pay to provide that service is ludicrous. The water district looks at this and says, 'let's run this thing through the Public Service Commission.' The Public Service Commission is going to nail us. It won't matter to them if we pay a dollar a thousand gallons.

"We need to tell the public and the water districts and the governor and the DER what we think is ethical and fair in this regard. If golf courses weren't here, where would they put this wastewater?

"Instead of being charged, we should be receiving credits for what we bring to the table. And what we bring is the fact

that our golf courses are allowing them to dispose of their reclaimed water, and thus saving hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars to the public. I think it's pretty cut and dried.

"But," Benefield says, "unless someone steps in and gives a more definite push — someone like the governor's office and the DER — we are going to have a problem throughout the state.

"I hope there's enough intestinal fortitude among the people who have been appointed to the boards of governors of these different water management districts to recognize what is fair, accurate and reasonable, and go forward.

"But I do think it will be a tough call to make."



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FGCSA SPOTLIGHT

Business job kept him inside, so... He looked to golf to get outdoors

BY KIT BRADSHAW

used to sit there in the credit offices of Maas Brothers in Tampa and go crazy seeing all the beautiful weather while I was indoors. I think that's why I was so easily enticed when the opportunity came to work on a golf course."

Back in 1952, Bob Sanderson was an eminently practical man. He earned a degree in economics, a nice, stable choice of majors, at Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y. He went into the Army for two years and was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, where, as he says, "it's a beautiful three months of the year, and the rest of the time, it's rainy and foggy and miserable."

When his hitch was over, it didn't take much for his parents to get him to visit them in Florida, and once here, he decided to stay. But because of his economics degree, he chose to work for Maas Brothers — inside.

"In 1960, my wife, Mary Ann and I went to visit her brother-in-law, Dave Wallace, who was working for General Development on the Sinners Course in Port St. Lucie," Sanderson recalls.

"After showing us around, Dave said he might be calling me to work for him. I hadn't thought about working on a golf course until that time, but when the call came two weeks later, it took me about five minutes to decide.

I was in Port St. Lucie in two weeks."

Thirty years after joining Wallace in Port St. Lucie, the man who just wanted to work outdoors was awarded the FGCSA's President's Award for lifetime achievement in golf course management.

Bob Sanderson

Helped organize the FGCSA

Photo by Philip Pettus

He learned the skills that merited the award the old-fashioned way — in the field.

"Two years after I went to Port St. Lucie, General Development and Mackle Brothers, who did the development work, had a disagreement. Everyone who was in Port St. Lucie was moved elsewhere. I was selected to be the superintendent at Port Charlotte, a 120,000-acre development where there was an 18-

hole golf course.

"I was excited about the chance to be a golf course superintendent, but it was really tough on my wife. They were developing shopping malls in Port St. Lucie and she could hardly wait to do some serious shopping. But we moved to Port Charlotte and there was really nothing much there at the time."

Sanderson said the isolation at Port Charlotte made it difficult to get the solid information on golf course management as well. He relied at that time on advice from fertilizer and chemical salesmen and a lot of trial and error.

"I made a lot of errors, but I learned a lot, too," he said.

Despite good advice from sales reps, Sanderson still longed for more inter-

President's Award for Lifetime Achievement <u>1991</u> Tom Mascaro John Hayden Carl Smith Harvey Phillips C.R. 'Bud' Pearson action among golf course superintendents. During the 1960s, more golf courses were being built in Fort Myers and Naples, and there was increased communication among the superintendents. But they still needed to travel to Tampa or Miami for educational courses.

To get this information on a local level, the superintendents formed the Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1968. Two years later, Sanderson was involved with the creation of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

"The organization (FGCSA) didn't get off the blocks as well as we wanted it to," Sanderson said. "It was more of a paper

organization at that point. But in 1978, we met in Orlando — Tim Hiers, Bill Wagner and others and we really went to town then. Tim was elected as the first president. He really did an outstanding job, particularly for a young fellow. And then Bill became president and did a great job, too.

"The organization has gotten bigger and the people and the talent that have come along since then are unbelievable. There are people in this state who are outstanding. They are interested in the organization; they have created great educational programs for the superintendents. I see the organization just getting better and better in the future."

Sanderson remained active with the FGCSA, serving as secretary/treasurer in 1982. He also stayed in Port Charlotte for 25 years, until he left in 1985 during

Bob Sanderson

Current Position: Golf Course Superintendent, Del Tura CC and Del Vera CC, North Fort Myers

Age: 63

Education: B.A. Economics, Hobart College, Geneva, NY Previous Employment: Golf course superintendent at Port Charlotte CC for 23 years. Before that he was employed at Port St. Lucie during its golf course development.

Other Employment: U.S. Army, Maas Brothers Professional growth: Helped start the Everglades GCSA and was its first president. He later helped organize the Florida GCSA, and served as one of its first directors. He later served as Secretary/Treasurer of FGCSA. He has also served as Secretary/ Treasurer of the Florida Turfgrass Association.

Personal: Married to Mary Ann since 1955. Has a daughter, Pamela, who is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a B.S. in marketing.

lot of play. At Del Vera, there is 419 Bermuda throughout the course with the greens in Tifdwarf. The course has huge greens — some of them as large as 8,000 square feet.

"We also have large sand traps and waste areas, and our tees are three to four times bigger than normal so that we can spread the wear on them in peak periods of play. We have water along the sides of the fairways which are a little narrower than usual. And, we even have an island green. I think this course is really going to be a test of golf for the members."

The courses share some of the same problems with nematodes, mole crickets and periodic fungus, but Sanderson says the older course has unique problems because of its age.

> "As a golf course gets older, about the fourth year, you can develop problems with dry spots or you didn't get quite the right mixture on a green or tee and it starts to show. Then you have to make adjustments to the course, to keep it in good condition. I'm lucky, because I have two great assistant superintendents, Curt Conrad and Mike Sorrell. They've been a godsend to me. They do all the outside work and I've concentrated on the inside work, such as doing the budget and keeping up with the regulations."

> These regulations, Sanderson said, are one of the challenges for today's golf course superintendents. "Particularly in the last 10 years, there have been so many regulations and so many governmental agencies involved with golf courses that it's difficult to stay on top of everything. I think that it's certainly different than

a change in management. For a brief time, he worked with David Moote until he went with Del Tura in North Fort Myers in 1986.

As the golf course superintendent, Sanderson has the overall responsibility for two courses. Del Tura CC is a 27-hole executive course complex, complete with a large clubhouse, pro shop and recreational areas. When the manufactured home community sells out in the next few years, there will be approximately 1,500 families living at Del Tura.

Most recently, Sanderson has been involved with the creation of Del Vera CC, which opened nine regulation holes in January. Construction is scheduled to start on another nine holes in 1992. Ron Garl is the architect for Del Tura and Del Vera golf courses.

"There are definite differences between the two complexes," Sanderson said. "The Del Tura course has 419 bermuda on the fairway and tees and 328 bermuda on the greens. We've got about 25 acres of the 100 acres in lakes. The three courses get a when I began in this business. I don't think a young superintendent could learn this business just by working on a course. The young person coming along now really has to know a mindboggling amount of information to run a golf course."

"It was really a joy to be part of a new association that started out at the bottom and now is one of the most respected in the nation," Sanderson said.

The responsibilities of a golf course superintendent have changed over the years, and there are more to come, Sanderson said. " As a result of the increased use of computers at courses, I think the high tech is really going to be a great part of the future for golf course superintendents. We may even find that it's possible to do a lot of work at night with radio controlled equipment or with robots cutting greens. There'll never be a day when you can completely replace people on a course, but there may come a day when we are automated much more than we are now."

FGCSA SPOTLIGHT

Crowfoot weekend grand at Grand Cypress

On Aug. 5, the Grand Cypress Resort performed to perfection its swan song as the host for the Crowfoot Open. The original 18 holes, the north and south nines, were used this year to separate the hackers from the duffers, which left the golfers to take home the prizes.

Using combinations of the North, South and East nines, and the New 18hole course, Grand Cypress has been the site for this event for the past five years. Next year the committee expects to move the tournament and weekend activities to either The Bay Hill Club or Walt Disney World.

The weekend got started Saturday, Aug. 3, with the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association Summer Board Meeting and Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 1991-92. Special guests addressing the Board were GCSAA President Stephen Cadenelli, and Bobby Brantley, former Florida Lt. Governor



Ed Ramey of the South Florida Chapter presents Tom Mascaro (left) with one of the FGCSA's 1991 President's Award for Lifetime Service to the Turfgrass Industry. Text and photos by Joel Jackson

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THE FLORIDA GREEN

More photos, Page 28

and current Executive Director of the Florida Golf Council.

The highlight of the meeting was an extensive presentation by the Government Relations Committee chaired by

Tim Hiers, CGCS. Tim's plea for a proactive approach to dealing with regulatory and environmentally sensitive issues was supported by the board. It was also agreed that The Florida Golf Council is our best vehicle



Dr. Bree Hayes

for unifying all golf interests to present our industry's concerns to the legislature and to educate the public about the true nature of our business.

Bright and early Sunday, those seeking to improve their skills in communicating with their bosses, club members, staff, and the media were treated to a presentation by Dr. Bree Hayes, clinical psychologist and motivational speaker. Not one to stand up and lecture, Dr. Hayes had the attendees form smaller discussion groups to work on exercises. The idea is to gain confidence in speaking in small groups and then eventually transfer that confidence to the podium or public forum or other more pressure packed situations.

Later that night at the Crowfoot Open Banquet, honors and awards were bestowed on several deserving individuals. FGCSA President Tom Benefield announced Cecil Johnston, CGCS as the winner of the 1991 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award. Cecil is currently in Thailand helping develop several golf courses. Also announced were the winners of the 1991 FGCSA President's Award. This award, now in its second year, is given in recognition for those who have helped pioneer the association and promote the profession. John Hayden and Tom Mascaro were present to receive their award. Other honorees unable to attend were: Bud Pearson, Harvey Phillips, and Carl Smith. They will receive their awards at local chapter meetings.

In addition to legends and pioneers in the turf industry, a new generation of turfgrass professionals was present to reOn Monday, Aug. 5, the tournament field was treated to golfing perfection as Tom Alex, CGCS, director of golf maintenance, and Mark Heater, superintendent of the north and south courses had the turf in outstanding condition. There was a brief suspension of play when a morning thunderstorm drifted across the southern edge of the course flashing enough lightning to cause concern.

Blessed with almost a home-course advantage, the Central Florida team of Joe Ondo(Winter Pines), Dale Reash(La Cita), Steve Sorrell(MetroWest and former Grand Cypress Superintendent), and Mark Heater(Grand Cypress) won the Crowfoot Trophy. Fred Klauk(TPC) won the Low Gross honors with a 71. BROOKSIDE LABORATORIES

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FGCSA SPOTLIGHT

Lots to crow about at Crowfoot weekend



The Central Florida Chapter awarded a total of \$3,000 in scholarship funds to these turfgrass students. Honored guest, GCSAA President Steve Cadenelli, CGCS (green coat) is seen with students (I-r) Andrew Chesler, John Morrison, Todd Bonnett, Mike Bellino, Ed Batcheller and Steve Whaley.



The Central Florida Chapter that successfully defended the Crowfoot Open Title are (I to r): Joe Ondo (Winter Pines), Dale Reash (La Cita), Steve Sorrell (MetroWest), and Mark Heater (Grand Cypress).





FGCSA Officers for 1991-92 are (I to r) Mark Jarrell, CGCS, vice president; Ray Hansen, immediate past president; Tom Benefield, CGCS, president; and Paul Crawford, secretary/ treasurer. Photos by Joel Jackson

Fred Klauk, superintendent at the Tournament Players Club, Ponte Vedra Beach won the individual low gross with a score of 71.



John Hayden, CGCS, (left) received his President's Award for Lifetime Service from Eddie Snipes, CGCS of the North Florida Chapter.

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Winners of the Ugly Knees Contest were(I to r) Steve Wright, Joe Ondo, Tom Alex, Larry Kamphaus, Rick Walker, Jim Ellison, and Gary Morgan. Jim Ellison was disqualified for wearing long pants. Actually these hard-working gentlemen are the 1991 Crowfoot Committee.



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Overseeding 1991

Trends, blends and methods

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

Recently, a group of golf course superintendents of the Ridge Chapter got together to discuss the coming overseeding season and to share their thoughts on products and programs. Keep in mind that each course has its own set of goals, soil and environmental conditions, and budgets.

While this session was convened for the purpose of generating this article, similar exchanges of information take place whenever superintendents gather at monthly meetings, seminars, or just a friendly round of golf.

While listening to the tape of this session, it was interesting to note how often tips and ideas tried successfully by one individual gave another superintendent a potential solution to a problem he had been trying to solve at his own course.

Sometimes it was a discussion about timing of cultural practices, or maybe an application rate of seed or fertilizer, or mowing heights, but there was always something that one could consider and accept or reject as it met the needs of his course and his members or owners. That's one of the real benefits of belonging to the FGCSA and the reason we are successful.

TRENDS and **BLENDS**

he Ridge Chapter members in this group prefer the traditional and successful ryegrass or blends of ryegrass and *poa trivialis*. The blends are usually at a ratio of 80-85% rye and 20-15% *poa trivialis*.

The primary reason cited for preference of the ryegrass or predominantly ryegrass blend was its tolerance for wear from traffic and warm weather. All superintendents anticipated large numbers of golfers this winter and believe ryegrass gives them the best growing surface for heavy play. Only one private course in the area with low rounds of play uses bentgrass each year. A few others are using the finer-bladed *poa trivialis* as a monostand or in a blend with bentgrass.

Also cited as important from the members' and owners' point of view was the color and aesthetics during winter play. Ryegrass again is the grass of choice to meet those demands.

Another question is whether to overseed only the areas of most wear during the winter (greens and tees) or to seed the entire golf course. One or two superintendents mentioned that their clubs had considered the possibility of eliminating overseeding altogether. While the group conceded that might be a consideration along the southern coasts of the state, the central and northern parts of the state are almost always destined to undergo overseeding to guarantee acceptable playing conditions during the winter. One hard freeze combined with large numbers of golfers can spell disaster for the rest of the winter and early spring.

Most prefer not to overseed wall-towall in order to service and rebuild some of the large fairway and rough mowers. If the course is totally overseeded all mowers, blowers, and sweepers must remain in action to keep up with the prolific growth of the ryegrass. However, the group recognized that resorts and developments may want to impress the large numbers of winter golfers with lush green grass everywhere.

There is a price to pay for wear and

tear on equipment with continuous use. Courses in the North rebuild all their equipment every winter, a fact owners and managers should consider when southern superintendents request money for capital equipment more frequently than their northern counterparts.

The group also recalled the past few winters have been mild enough that bermudagrass never really went off color. In such cases, overseeding wall-to-wall might sometimes be expensive insurance. As we all know in this business, almost every decision with regards to overseeding is a gamble, with weather being the biggest and most unpredictable factor.

METHODS

If you think there are many opinions on which seed or blends of seeds to use, or how much of the course to overseed, wait until you read how many ways there are to sow and cultivate overseeded grasses and the considerations associated with each choice. Everyone wants his course to be in excellent shape whenever he tees it up, but there are steps in the overseeding process that require patience and understanding on the part of the superintendent and players alike.

Timing. The most popular date for overseeding in the Ridge Chapter area is the week after Thanksgiving. The Nov– ember dates have offered a good compromise to the warm weather that occurred the past few autumns. But other clubs have begun seeding the last week of October to have new grass growing and normal playing conditions by Thanksgiving. In either case it will take four to six weeks — maybe even eight weeks before the new grass matures — and unseasonably warm weather in the fall can stress and kill the new seedlings.

Preparation. Preparing the bermudagrass greens, tees, fairways, and roughs is the key step in a successful overseeding season. The main purpose is to provide a surface which will allow the seed to make good contact with the soil for germination and penetration by the embryonic root when it emerges from the seed hull.

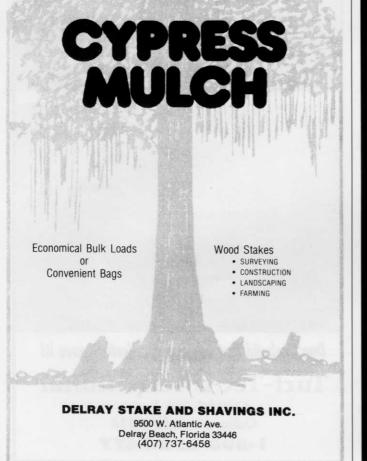
On fairways and roughs, brushing up the turf with tractor-mounted brooms followed by close mowing has proved successful. On greens and tees, combinations of brushing or light verticutting help stand up the turf to receive the seed. If a course has been maintaining close heights of cut, the superintendent may raise the height or even stop mowing just prior to seeding so the seeds can be caught and held by the grass blades. After seeding, some prefer to apply a light top dressing to help the seed-tosoil contact. Dragging in the seed with the backside of a carpet is standard procedure. Rolling the seed is gaining in popularity to help press the seed into contact with the soil.

Another part of preparation is protecting unseeded areas from contamination with stray seeds tracked about by foot traffic and equipment. This usually requires the application of pre-emergent herbicides (Kerb and Surflan are popular) in advance of the overseeding process.

Walking booms or Spray Hawks are used immediately around the greens and tee surfaces, then Cushman-mounted 100-gallon tanks and booms tie in the rest of the slopes. Large 300-gallon tanks with flood jets pulled by tractors can be used in the fairways and roughs. Preemergent controls are also used on greens to prevent the germination of the dreaded annual bluegrass, *poa annua*, with its white seed heads disrupting the putting surfaces. In recent years the fungicide Rubigan has been a popular choice to combat *poa annua*. These pre-emergent applications are also a function of timing and are very dependent on weather conditions.

Sowing the seed. A combination of walking rotary and drop-type spreaders is used on the greens and tees, while large tractor-mounted or pulled versions of the same can be used in the fairways and roughs. Calm days are a requirement so that an even distribution of seed can be achieved. The decision to seed should take into account the probability of rainfall and that no imminent storms are on the way to wash away all the hard work.

The amount of seed to be sown is a matter of choice and experience. Amounts of ryegrass seed to be used this year in the Ridge Chapter area range from 25-36 pounds per 1,000 square feet on the greens and 12-18 pounds per 1,000 square feet on the tees. Most of the super-intendents will withhold a portion of the seed from the initial application to use as backup for thin areas that may develop.



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HANDS ON Overseedin Overseeding 1991eeding 1991

Fairway and rough rates were not discussed.

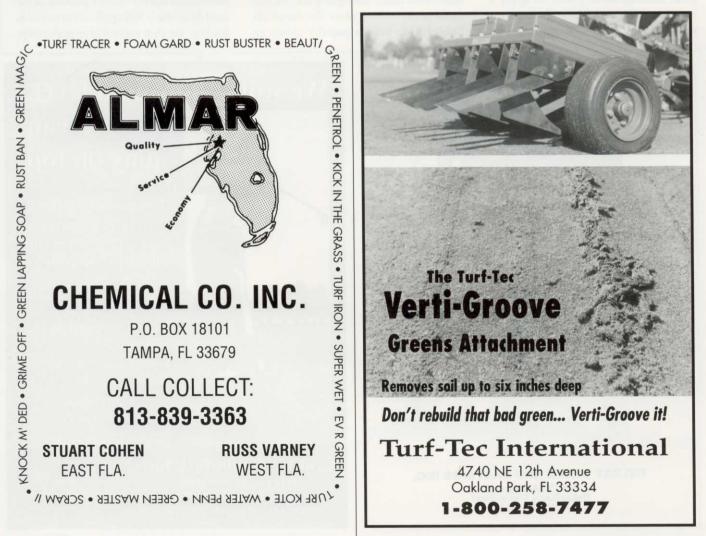
Fertility. Starter fertilizers with high percentages of phosphorus and potassium are applied to the prepared greens and tees just prior to or just after seeding. Some stay with this starter blend for several applications, but all tended to shift eventually to blends containing slow-release nitrogen in a 1:1 ratio with potassium. Everyone in the group supplements their fertilizer with some form of micronutrients (iron, sulfur, etc.) either in direct applications of Tracite or potassium nitrate or other micronutrient blends in his tanks with their fungicide spray programs.

Mowing. Of all the topics this is the one that causes the most problems and the most discussion. Deciding when to cut and how high to cut places the superintendent between the rock and the hard place. He walks the line every day between aggravating players who want ideal playing conditions, and giving the seedlings a chance to survive. Individual course conditions, assessed by the superintendent, and playing conditions required by the players will dictate what heights of cut will be used.

This area has been one where the most experimentation and gambling takes place. Some courses have acceded to the wishes of their members or management and heights of cut are kept low throughout the establishment period. This can be risky and re-seeding may be necessary.

The mowing methods favored by the group included raising the height of cut above normal, mowing when the grass was dry to avoid seed pickup on the rollers and tires, and then dropping the height of cut progressively as the grass matures and can tolerate the lower cut. It seems every year that superintendents are forced to bring the greens closer and closer to the edge of disaster during the establishment period by the demand for perfect greens every day. This is one of those areas where a little patience by the players pays off with successful greens during the winter.

Disease Control. No preventive programs were discussed. One superintendent said he had not had to spray in the three years he had been at his course. Everyone uses treated seed on the greens and tees to protect the seedlings during germination. Products kept on hand for curative treatments if needed were Koban and Subdue for pythium, and Bayleton, Chipco 26019, Daconil, Dyrene, and Manzate for the spot and patch diseases.



THE FLORIDA GREEN

OverseedinOverseeding 1991

Transition. Five to six months after we have agonized over establishing the overseeding, it is time to monitor the transition back to a bermudagrass playing surface. The old method of spraying out the winter grass has lost favor because it also weakens the reviving bermudagrass. Most everyone favors a combination of frequent but light verticutting, gradual lowering of cutting heights, slight increases in nitrogen rates in the scheduled fertilizer applications, and slight cutbacks in moisture amounts where possible. These procedures in combination with the natural increases in air and soil temperature and competition from the bermudagrass should enhance a smooth transition. Spring renovation, usually in April or May for most courses in this area, should complete the transition process.

The following members of the Ridge Chapter contributed to this article: Kent Boggs, C.C. of Sebring; Jim Higgins, City of Sebring; Mark Hopkins, Sun & Lake G.C.; Alan Puckett, Lake Region Yacht & Country Club and Al Simms, Spring Lake C.C.

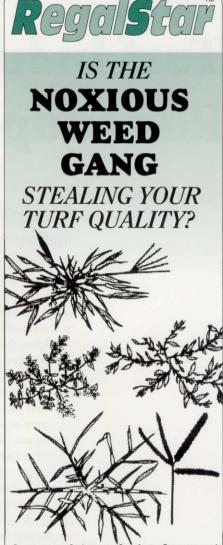
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Turf Industry Roundup

McLaughlin named general manager of Nucrane Machinery

After a two-year foray into the plant nutrition field, former FTGA President **M.J. McLaughlin** has returned to the turf machinery industry as general manager for **Nucrane Machinery**, based in Coral Gables.

McLaughlin, who brings 18 years of turf machinery experience to Nucrane, hopes to develop long-term relationships with his clients, "valuing customer input in the areas of management practices and development decisions," according to a company news release.

McLaughlin's team of sales and service professionals includes Kent Busser, controller of product support; Gerry Millholen, Dick Bessire, Jon Gowen and Drew Hager.

"The primary focus for Nucrane will be to change the perception clients have of dealing with machinery companies," McLaughlin said. "Working with a company, no matter what field they represent, should be a pleasant experience — even a fun experience — not a dreaded one.

"Our philosophy is to make sure that clients feel comfortable with our service and find dealing with Nucrane a positive experience."

Nucrane recently was named exclusive John Deere Golf and Turf distributor for South Florida and Palm Springs, Calif. In addition to its Coral Gables headquarters, Nucrane has three Florida locations: Riviera Beach, Sanford and Fort Myers.



McLaughlin



Shook

Vigoro Industries has named two territory managers for its Winter Haven-based Specialty Products Division. Matthew D. Shook will manage Central Florida and Gary McElvaney will expand the company's customer base in the Southwest and Southeast. Shook joins Vigoro from Chain of Lakes Groves, where he was production manager. He will work out of the Division office. McElvaney, previously sales manager for Chemical & Turf Specialty Co. and a past president of the Texas Turfgrass Association, will serve his territory from Austin, Tex.

Jacklin Seed Co. has tapped Gustavao Picasso to help the firm expand its international market. A native of Argentina and a graduate of the University of Buenos Aires as an agronomy engineer, Picasso will specialize in export sales of turf and forage grass to Central and South American countries, southern Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Excel Industries has has named **Pifer**, **Inc**. in Jupiter as an authorized factory-direct dealer for southeast Florida. The Kansas manufacturer of commercial mowers also announced a new corporate logo.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has named former HBO account executive Patricia McCarthy as director of administration for the 10,800-member organization.

The GCSAA also has named **Pat Jones**, formerly director of communications, to head a new department to support development efforts for its scholarship and research fund. "GCSAA has been providing funds for turfgrass research grants and student scholarships for more than 35 years, but the demands are growing and our board has made development one of its top priorities," said John M. Schilling, GCSAA executive director. "Dedicating full-time staff to this effort is evidence of GCSAA's commitment to providing the scientific knowledge and educational resources the professional superintendents of the future will need." Among the projects under consideration is the



Picasso



Harvey THE FLORIDA GREEN

Turf Industry Roundup

Companies doing business with golf course superintendents in Florida are invited to submit their news releases to The Florida Green, c/o Janlark Communications, P.O. Box 3,36, Auburndale, FL 33823. establishment of research centers on new or existing golf courses.

Monsanto has appointed Jim R. Neal as brands director to oversee marketing and brand development activities for the residential Roundup product line.

Rain Bird Sales has named three national managers and two in Florida. Mike Catalano returns as product manager for the Golf Division and Tony Matlock is the new quality manager in that division; Rick Davis is national specifications sales manager. Clayton Harvey is Golf Division product applications engineer in Tampa and Sharon L. Carothers is the new Contractor Division district manager for Florida Lawn Line accounts, based in Orlando.

James Beard of Texas A&M University will keynote the annual FTGA Conference and Show Oct. 13-16 at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville.

More than 200 exhibitors from the U.S., Canada and England will take part in the trade show Oct. 14-15. Admission will be free the second day.

On Monday, the association's annual meeting and election of officers will be combined with the traditional awards luncheon, always highlighted with the presentation of the association's highest award, the Wreath of Grass.

Presentation of research reports and hands-on workshops will fill the education schedule on Monday and Wednesday while concurrent education sessions will run all day Tuesday.

Pre-conference social events on Sunday include the annual Research Golf Tournament, this time conducted over two courses, and the barbecue.

Contact the FTGA at 800-882-6721 for more information.

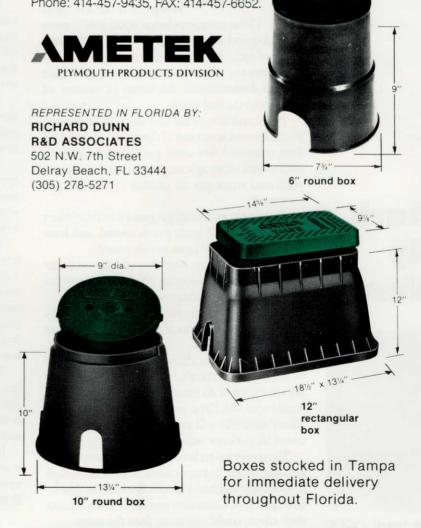
The FGCSA will sponsor a GCSAA Seminar on negotiating at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando Nov. 8. The GCSAA will award 0.7 CEUs for successful completion of the session, the only official GCSAA seminar in Florida this year.

"How to get what you want from the people who have it," is the operating theme of the one-day seminar conducted by Charles F. "Chuck" Palmer.

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Plymouth Products Division, 502 Indiana Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081, Phone: 414-457-9435, FAX: 414-457-6652.



Are you ready?

n a column in March I warned of pending legislation that would require all golf courses (now 460) within the South Florida Water Management District to reduce their use of potable water by 80 percent and contract with local utilities to purchase reclaimed water for their irrigation needs.

Crunch time time transforme trans

It is expected this proposal will become the blueprint for Florida's other water districts and possibly other states facing water supply problems.

After attending the final public workshop on this matter on July 3, I regret to report the proposal will probably take effect in November.

Utility companies will then have two years to develop their re-use pro-

grams. These programs hinge upon golf courses and other end users signing contracts for the purchase of reclaimed water. If recent contract proposals are any indication, utility companies have already demonstrated the intent to recover all costs from the end users.

A fair estimate of the cost for a golf course to pump its own water out of the ground is between four cents and five cents per thousand gallons. Golf courses throughout the state that are using reclaimed water pay an average of 17 cents per thousand.

I have seen a contract proposal from the Stuart area calling for 40 cents per thousand, and have heard of one for 50 cents per thousand.

Who knows how high it could go once the bureaucratic tentacles catch hold and golf courses have no choice of water sources?

Using my own course as an example of the potential additional cost of using this water, let me illustrate my concern.

My water permit allows me to withdraw up to 77.8 million gallons of water a year. If I were to use my allocation at 40 cents per thousand gallons, it would cost \$31,120 a year on top of other costs, which assuredly will go up to accommodate the use of this inferior water.

The quality of reclaimed water varies from one area to another, but one constant seems to be high levels of salts and heavy metals. Both are detrimental to golf turf. Corrective measures to counteract their effects could cost more than the water. Knowing a little about the mentality of golf course neighborhoods, I also predict a problem with those walking or jogging the course at night. Add the expense of a fence or other means of security to keep all the people off the course at night during irrigation and the cost mounts up.

For all this effort and expense, there is only one tangible benefit that I can see for golf courses: an inferior source of water will be available during times when no other source can be obtained.

Sadly, our \$5.5 billion statewide golf industry has less influence on policy-makers than a vocal group of condo commandos.

Golf courses did not create the water crisis, but they are being called upon to solve it. Because a golf course is such an effective mechanism for the recharge of ground-water supplies, and because it already has the infrastructure for the disposal of reclaimed water, officials naturally look at golf courses as the very best means available to recycle water and replenish ground-water supplies.

In some densely populated urban areas, golf courses are the only available recharge areas for local shallow aquifers. Add to this the cleansing effect of golf turf and you see why water officials are drooling over the prospect of having golf courses use wastewater.

Having these wonderful advantages to offer for the solution of a water problem that we all create, golf courses — and this really means golfers — are rewarded by being asked to foot the entire bill.

The perception is that we use a lot of water. We apply a lot, but most returns to the groundwater supplies. We estimate as much as 10 times as much water returns to the aquifer as we draw out for irrigation.

The water management district estimates that any given golf course in South Florida will apply 1.25 inches of water in a typical week while a home owner will apply 5.5 to 6 inches. It is this kind of waste and inefficiency and the runoff from our concrete and asphalt jungles that have created the water problem, not the golf course that recycles water by filtering it and returning it to the aquifer.

The utility companies will assuredly attempt the "divide and conquer" tactic, but don't buckle under to the pressure. My only suggestion for now is to refuse to sign any contracts for reclaimed water.

If we in the golf industry just roll over and accept this, we deserve the economic burden foisted upon us. But, we all have a stake in this and should fight it together. There is still time.

Mark My Words

near₁n



Mark Jarrell, CGCS



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Greenward

A compendium of news and opinions about government, golf and the environment

Forum brings feds, golf industry heads together for confab

Senior golf industry officials heard the latest information concerning government relations at a GCSAA-sponsored environmental forum June 24. "Golf Course Management, Government Relations and the Future," was developed and organized by GCSAA's government relations staff and board liaisons.

"By bringing the regulated and the regulators together, our industry stands a better chance of being involved when these agencies are making the rules we must live by," said Charles T. Passios, CGCS, GCSAA director in charge of government relations.

"More communication exchange means more opportunities to be represented in the rule-making process now and in the future."

Eight regulatory officials and a U.S. congressman briefed those attending on the current and proposed regulations and legislation that affect golf. Lewis Crampton, associate administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, urged the golf industry to continue its environmental efforts.

"Golf courses have to be environmentally friendly places if the industry wants to continue to grow," Crampton said. "Golf is doing a number of positive things in the environmental area. Those include pesticide reduction, better environmentally designed courses, and underground storage tank replacement."

Cathy Kronopolus, of EPA's Environmental Fate and Effects Branch, said that EPA is getting agency-wide input in developing the new pesticides and groundwater strategy. The strategy will focus on giving the states a substantial role in protecting groundwater supplies.

"The prevention strategy includes promoting the use of 'safer' chemicals, nonchemical pest control alternatives, and environmentally sound agricultural practices," Kronopolus said. She said the end user will continue to be responsible for the implications of pesticide use in the field.

Dr. Larry Turner, project manager for the Endangered Species Program, told the forum audience the program is "pretty much in concrete."

The program will rely on county bulletins that feature maps showing areas where an endangered species is present and outline the restrictions on chemical use in and around those areas. Chemical labels will remind applicators that they must consult the bulletins and abide by their restrictions.

Turner, a zoologist, noted that only three of the 600 listed endangered species have been sighted on golf courses. They are: 1) the dwarf wedge mussel (Northeast), 2) Mojave tuichub fish (California) and 3) the red cockaded woodpecker (Southeast, in older pine-wooded areas). Turner cautioned that there are probably "dozens and dozens more" on golf courses that have not yet been documented.

Melody Sands, an enforcement official for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, clarified some rules of the Hazard Communication Standard.

She explained that material safety data sheets (MSDSs), for instance, are not required to be kept in any certain form. They may be kept in a notebook or on a computer as long as all employees have ready access to them.

Sands referred to recent appellate court decisions on the subject of MSDS accessibility. In some emergency situations, "15 minutes may be too long for an employee not to have access to a material safety data sheet," Sands said.

Although it is not a requirement, she said, translating MSDSs into different languages is recommended because employers should communicate the hazards of the workplace in the employee's language.

She said the most frequently found violation of the HazCom Standard is an inadequate written program while a training program deficiency was the second most commonly found violation.

A more complete report on the environmental forum is printed in the August issue of Golf Course Management. — Don Bretthauer, GCSAA

Government Relations Manager

Supreme Court decision approves chemical ban laws by local ordinances

The Supreme Court decision involving the Town of Casey, Wis. vs. Mortier has sent lawn-care and turf associations scrambling for answers and ways to deal with the repercussions.

The key to the decision was that FIFRA legislative amendments inadequately spell out federal pre-emption of local ordinances.

The court asserted that FIFRA plainly authorizes states to regulate pesticides, but is silent in reference to local governments.

This ruling apparently upholds the authority of cities and towns to control and even ban the use of pesticides through permitting schemes, licensing, notification and other usage requirements.

Several interest groups that serve turf and lawn-care professionals are expected to initiate federal and/or state legislative amendments that spell out pre-emptive measures.

Cities can be expected to fight these legislative efforts to maintain regulatory authority.

Public education on the use of pesticides and the environmental and societal value of well-maintained turf, coupled with a willingness to initiate public protection measures, are the best ways to improve the position of golf courses with community decisions makers.

Communication with city and county government authorities is more important now than ever before.

Federal bill would ban minors from handling pesticides

A newly-proposed U.S. House of Representatives bill would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding the employment of minors.

Reps. Pease (D-Ohio), Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Lantos (D-Calif.) are cosponsors of the legislation which, if passed, would prohibit minors from handling pesticide products.

The bill would also require employers to report any lost-time accident or illness that occurs to a working minor.

The bill's language would require minor employees to obtain a work certificate that would include permission guarantees by the child's parents and school officials (school permission is required if the child is working during the school year).

When school is in session, minors age 14 and 15 could work a maximum of 15 hours per week and those between 16 and 18 could work a maximum of 25 hours per week. Some states already have provisions similar to these.

GCSAA plans to submit formal comments on the bill to the Subcommittee on Labor Standards.

Senate bill would tighten pesticide regulations

A new Senate bill entitled "The Pesticide Health and Safety Act of 1991" would amend several sections of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. If enacted the bill would require some pesticide labels to include the statement, "EPA registration is not a guarantee of safety. It is a product registration process and not a safety determination."

The bill would also require professional pesticide applicators to be trained in alternative pest management methods and both professional and private applicators to keep records of the date and time of all pesticide applications.

All of the preceding material was reprinted with permission from the GCSAA Government Relations Briefing, August, 1991.

Jax golf course provides green space in heart of industrial park

Windsor Parke GC in Jacksonville has been cited by Tom Clark, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, as a prime example of a new breed of golf course — those built in conjunction with industrial and commercial development.

The public course, which opened in May 1990, is built in an area featuring several commercial plots currently being marketed.

"Windsor Parke is an exceptional 18-hole course that will offer commercial occupants an outstanding environment for business and golf," said ASGCA member Art Hills, who designed the course. "We developed the master plan to blend the golf course and commercial space into a single cohesive project."

"Golfers can practice their

driving and putting at lunchtime and play a quick nine holes after work," added Clark. "Many commercial courses operate golf schools which are available to tenants and the public."

Clark recently developed a master plan for a course in Norfolk, Va., that will house offices for the city. "Any mayor or city administrator would appreciate the benefits of an office overlooking a public course, especially one that brings revenue to the city," Clark said.

A brochure on master planning is available from the ASGCA at 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.

In addition to making a property more attractive, industry studies show a golf course's open space absorbs noise, while trees produce oxygen, which can be expecially beneficial to industrial and commercial developments.

"Some courses have even been built over landfills, thereby eliminating an eyesore to the community and possibly reducing further environmental risks," said Clark. "Our research shows that golf courses will benefit commercial and industrial developments in the next decade in the same way they have generated sales in residential developments the past 10 years."

The ASGCA has formed task forces to work with governmental agencies to expedite the permitting process and identify unique financing sources and programs, Clark said.

"Developing sound environmental and financing programs continues to be critical to not only ASGCA members, but to the entire golf industry," he said.

The organization will distribute a document providing information on all facets of golf course development and maintenance from groundwater to wildlife. The information will be made available to federal, state and local agencies involved in the permitting procedure.

"Providing this information up front reduces the need for governmental agencies to query architects on a case-bycase basis," said Clark. "We are hoping to ease some of the concerns of these agencies, thereby speeding the application process.

"For example, if the agency knows we follow strict guidelines with nitrates, pesticides and herbicides, they can work with us on other areas, such as wildlife. We have been working with the GCSAA, NGF and USGA to collect and distribute this information.

The ASGCA also has developed an environmental database to provide architects with critical information.

"For example, if one of our members has dealt with woodpeckers or desert tortoises, he can provide that information to another members facing a similar situation," Clark said.

"More architects are getting back to the basics of good architecture and design, specifically concerning how courses are groomed. The water crisis may mean that there will be more brown courses, which is perfectly accceptable. We can't continue to groom every course like it's Augusta National."

AFTERWORDS

"There is no season such delight can bring, as summer, autumn, winter, and the spring." - William Browne

The hot, rainy summer of '91 with its warm humid mornings giving way to scorching mid-day heat followed by purple-gray thunderstorms rolling across the late afternoon

Reflections on the Autumn equinox skies has been a reminder of what summers are traditionally like in Florida. June's summer solstice was but an exclamation point in a wet spring and summer.

The tropical bermudagrass covering our southern golf courses loved every minute of it. Unchecked by mowers unable

to negotiate the rain-soaked fairways and roughs, the turf challenged the perseverance of those who try to maintain it and those who try to play golf on it.

Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson, CGCS

Maintenance schedules became erratic. Renovation projects were delayed. Golf courses under construction faced setbacks as finely shaped contours were washed out of proportion. Golf carts were banned from courses without tee-to-green cart paths. Playing conditions got a little ragged. Revenues decreased. We got those mean old summertime blues.

Relief is in sight! It started sometime in September. Imperceptibly at first, just the slightest decrease in night time temperatures. The autumnal equinox marked the sun's passage into the Southern Hemisphere. Fall is on its way!

Soon you'll be donning that light sweater or windbreaker for those first few chilly hours before the day warms up. You'll be savoring that hot cup of coffee as you watch daybreak light up the clear, crisp autumn sky and plan the day's routine with your staff. *It must be time to overseed!*

Overseeding is that process which was invented to turn autumn's slower paced days of southern turf management into the stressful hectic days of summer. Just as the vigorous bermudagrass growth is slowing down and the turf is being manicured to optimum playing conditions, we spread cool-season grass seed over our courses so we will have something grow in the winter.

While the weather is more agreeable in the fall for both work and play on our courses, we still have our concerns. Storms accompanying cold fronts can wash the new seed off the greens and tees. Warm weather in November and December can dehydrate the tender cool-season grasses we are trying to cultivate. Increased golf rounds can wear out the new winter grass before it can get established. Lingering overcast skies give rise to disease conditions. Complaints of slow green speeds echo from the pro shop as cutting heights are eased up to give the new grass a chance to root.

Take heart! Don't despair! Once your overseeding is established you can sit back and relax and wait for winter with its ten zillion golfers and frost and freeze warnings.

A NU BEGINNING.

At Nucrane Machinery, we see a future of unlimited possibilities in the turf industry. A strong commitment to *service* directs our corporate philosophy. The new age products represented by Nucrane, developed through advanced computerized technology and backed through experience, are the central core and most essential part of our success. We also realize the importance of involving "*the superintendent*" in all of our development decisions. Our NU beginning promises to lead Nucrane Machinery into the 21st century.

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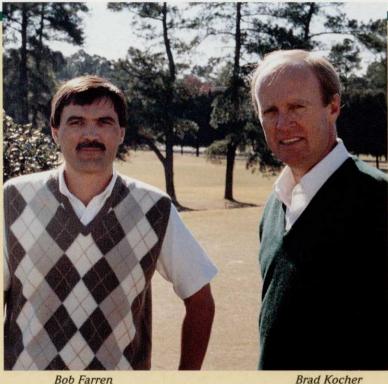
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LESCO PRE-M a proven performer at Pinehurst

Brad Kocher, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Pinehurst Resort and Country Club. and LESCO PRE-M go back to the beginning. That was in 1986 when PRE-M first became available. Brad had joined Pinehurst in 1984 and started a battle with goosegrass in fairways and roughs. He began winning in 1986 when he added LESCO PRE-M 60DG to his arsenal of control products.

Now, after five years, he's well satisfied that LESCO PRE-M has passed every test and has **VEH**

RESORT & COUNTRY CLUB proven its effectiveness. "My assistant Bob Farren and I watch what the market has to offer and we continue to use PRE-M," he said. "Based on the results of university testing, we use the split application method with the first application in late March or early April and the second during the first two weeks of May.



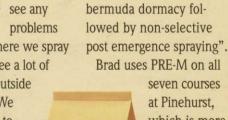
Bob Farren

JRS

"This is the first year we've used it as a band around the overseeded fairways," he said. "We don't see any

in the area where we spray PRE-M but I see a lot of germination outside of that band. We spray right up to the collar of the green without any problems. This gives us an instant edge and looks neat right off the bat. "PRE-M enables

us to realize a



clean delineation

between overseeded fair-

time of germination. We

do not have to wait for

way and rough at the



seven courses at Pinehurst. which is more than 500 acres. "We haven't found any negative effects or visual evidence of root inhibition as far as developed bermudagrass is concerned," Brad said.

"Because of the effectiveness of PRE-M and the fact that we don't have to worry about its short or long-term use on ryegrass, we can guarantee the best rye on the fairways during March, April and May, our busiest months of the year," Brad said. "I kind of wish

PRE-M had been available when I was in Florida," he con-

cluded. To find out more about

PRE-M, contact your LESCO sales representative, visit a nearby LESCO Service Center, or call (800) 321-5325. In Cleveland, 333-9250.



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