

teur Championship, was constructed in harmony with the existing site topography, thereby minimizing the negative impact of excessive soil disturbance. Naturalized tall grasses are encouraged to grow in areas between greens, tees and landing areas, while native shrubs and tall grasses border the roughs, streams and pond shorelines. Nest boxes for birds are located throughout the course.

As of early September, more than 175 golf courses had registered to participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The program is sponsored by the USGA and administered by the Audubon Society of New York State.

## **Congressman lauds GCSAA environmental efforts**

U.S. Congressman Jim Slattery of Kansas' Second District praised GCSAA's recent environmental efforts in a speech delivered at the association's headquarters dedication and 65th anniversary ceremony Sept. 7 in Lawrence, Kan.

"As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. Congress that has jurisdiction over this nation's environmental laws, I am particularly grateful for the leadership that this organization has demonstrated in environmental areas," Slattery said.

The five-term congressman commended the association's new environmental management program, the recent development of a public service an-

nouncement to educate homeowners about the proper use of pesticides and the environmental research that GCSAA cosponsors with the USGA.

## **FIFRA amendments bill to be introduced**

Rep. Charles Rose (D-N.C.) is expected to introduce a FIFRA amendments bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill will likely contain language addressing a fast-track registration process for "safer" pesticides. This "fast track" would allow biologicals and environmentally friendly pesticides to receive registration approval more quickly.

The bill would also allow companies to have exclusive use of such new discoveries.

In addition, the bill would define re-registration and establish a cutoff date for registrants to comply with data requirements. EPA would not be allowed to change the cutoff date or to add data requirements after the cutoff date had been established.

The bill is not expected to spell out federal and state pre-emption of local governments on pesticide issues.

## **EPA must say if used oil is hazardous**

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has set a deadline for EPA to decide whether used oil should be listed as a hazardous waste.

The agency reached a settlement in a suit filed by the Natural Resources De-

fense Council, the Hazardous Waste Treatment Council and the Association of Petroleum Refiners. Under the terms of the agreement, EPA issued a statement on Sept. 3, outlining the options that EPA is considering. These options are: 1) listing all used oil as hazardous waste, 2) listing used motor oils as hazardous but exempting industrial oils, 3) not listing any used oils as hazardous, but instead issuing management standards and good business procedures, 4) listing only residuals from oil burning operations as hazardous.

EPA has until May 1, 1992, to make a final determination. If EPA decides to list used motor oils as hazardous waste, superintendents who hold used oil for more than 90 days may be considered a small-quantity generator. States differ on the maximum amount of hazardous waste a facility may store before that facility is considered a small-quantity generator.

## **Du Pont cancels ornamental uses for two fungicides**

Du Pont has announced plans to voluntarily cancel all ornamental uses for the products Benlate WP and Tersan WP. A spokesperson for Du Pont said that the cancellation was an economic decision, explaining that sales of the products were not significant enough to warrant continued ornamental labeling.

In March, Du Pont recalled its Benlate 50DF, Benlate 1991 DF and Tersan 1991 DF fungicides to possible atrazine contamination. While the

March recall was not the primary reason for the Benlate WP and Tersan WP cancellations, the associated costs were a factor. If you have questions about the cancellation of these products, you may call Du Pont at 800-441-7515.

## **Bureaucrat: make golf courses pay**

The Florida Golf Summit, a gathering of golf course owners, superintendents, and industry suppliers heard a Florida bureaucrat say he favored forcing the state's golf courses to take treated effluent from municipal sewage treatment plants.

Golf courses should also be required to pay for the installation of distribution lines to get the effluent and should pay a per gallon fee as well, David York said. York is the director of re-use for the state Department of Environmental Regulation.

York's position was challenged by FGCSA President Tom Benefield, who told the gathering that "Society creates the problem, yet we in the golf business are expected to carry the lion's share of the expense in recycling it.

"If golf courses weren't available to take this effluent, it would have to be sent to the ocean or deep-well injected into the ground..."

"Golf courses provide a tremendous service to society, yet we're expected to pay for it all," Benefield said.

Sponsored by the Florida Golf Council, the Florida Golf Summit took place Oct. 3-4 in Tampa at the Hyatt Regency hotel, coinciding with the 16th annual Water Management Conference.

*“A good superintendent is his own toughest critic.”*

*No golf course is ever perfect*

Perfection is only a perception. It is often desired and seldom attained. If idealistic perfection is sought but not achieved, then perhaps realistic excellence will be the result.

Perfection is not likely ever to exist on a golf course. One man's fast greens are another man's three-putt nightmare. A tall rough is the low handicapper's challenge and the high handicapper's double bogey. One member shoots par and thinks the course is

“perfect” and the next person can't break a hundred and thinks the course is terrible. And so it goes.

Golf course superintendents should strive for perfection as they groom and condition their courses. They may never reach absolute perfection, but competent professionals will develop programs that produce overall excellence and improved playing conditions. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln: *You can grow some of the grass all of the time, all of the grass some of the time, but you can't grow all of the grass all of the time.*

It is very frustrating to hear of excellent dedicated superintendents,

who have rescued, renovated, and rehabilitated turf maintenance operations at club after club only to be faced with threats of dismissal when things aren't perfect. Imperfections don't have to be tolerated, but they should be understood. Focusing on a small problem can magnify it out of proportion to the overall excellent job being done by the superintendent.

It seems that even accomplished golfers can't quite comprehend that golf turf is a living, growing carpet of vegetation that endures use and abuse by people, machines, and mother nature. It is likely that during periods of poor growing conditions combined with heavy play there will be thin or worn turf areas. Trying to maintain 100 percent perfect putting surfaces at 1/8, 5/32, or even 3/16 of an inch day after day is an impossible task.

A good superintendent is his own toughest critic. He doesn't need someone who doesn't really understand the complex nature of golf turf conditioning to nitpick the golf course. A good superintendent with adequate resources at his disposal will address and correct the flaws that exist if it is possible to do so.

This is the season to be thankful for all the good things in our lives. If you have a superintendent who has obviously demonstrated his professional skills, be thankful and appreciative for the changes and improvements he has made to your club. This is a good time to be realistic and charitable in your perceptions about the level of excellence at your club. After all, no one is perfect!

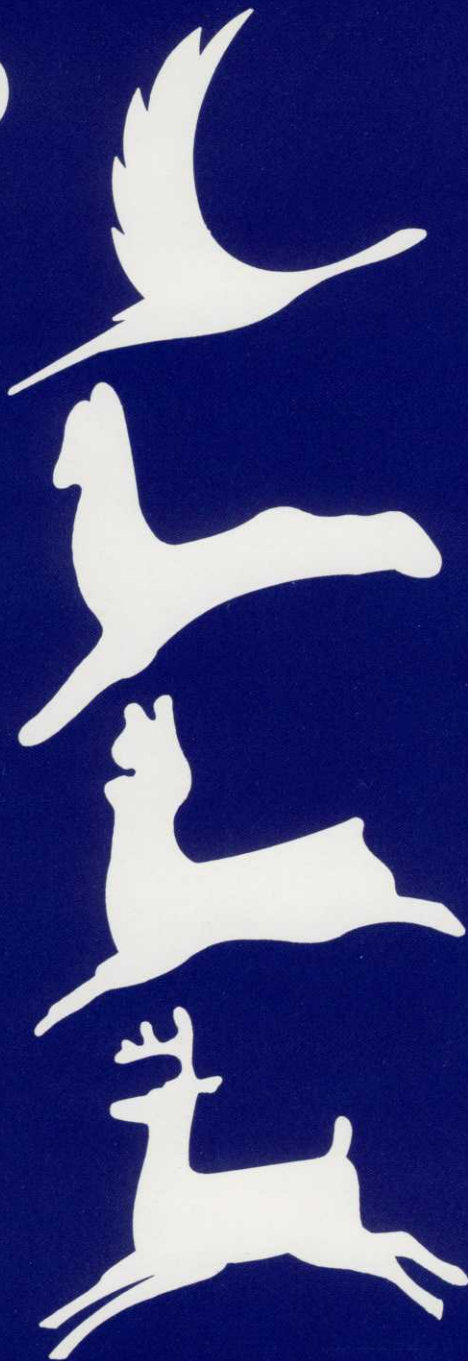
## Green Side Up



*Joel D. Jackson*

Joel D. Jackson, CGCS

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Ft. Myers, FL 33912  
(813) 275-4441

72104 Corporate Way  
Thousand Palms, CA 92276  
(619) 343-0270