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Editor Joel Jackson just happened to find blowing in the wind this letter from an unnamed golf course superintendent to a complaining country club member. He shares the unabridged contents with us for our edification.

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TURFGRASS QUIZ

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Problem: Thousands of holes on all greens.

Clue: Greens saturated, high temperatures, mid-summer.

Answer: See Page 6

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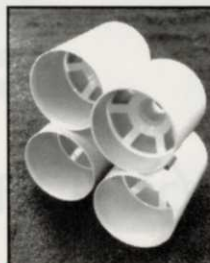
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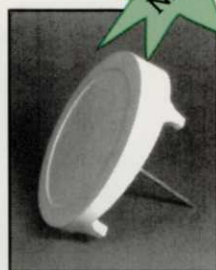
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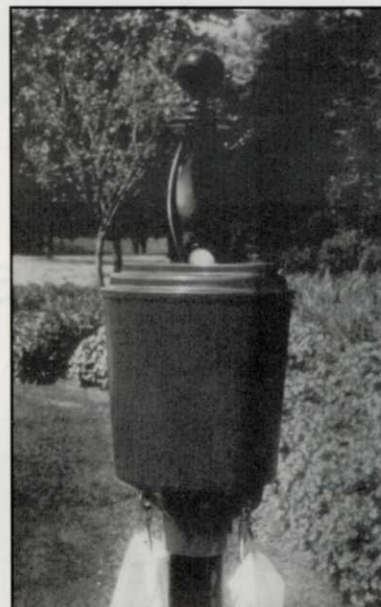
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look out
for us —
but us*



Tom Benefield, CGCSA
FGCSA President

For many years, we in the FGCSA have talked of our desire to be represented in the state capitol by someone who would be able to look out for our interests. We needed an individual who would be able to get to the right people. We wanted

someone who understood how the system worked and was ambitious enough to work with the system for the betterment of all golf courses.

Then a concept came along that we could hitch our wagon to: A single organization that was for the exclusive benefit of the entire golf course industry. It would be a vehicle

that would unite all the various golf course associations into one dynamic force, having one voice that would be heard in Tallahassee. It would help keep our six-billion-dollar industry growing and maturing into the largest economic force in this great state.

The FGCSA supported this cause from the start with state funds. We urged all our local chapters and members to support it with their own financial contributions. We asked the organization's lobbyist to attend state and local meetings. He did. We asked this lobbyist to look after our interests in Tallahassee. He did. We told this lobbyist if he would do for us, then we would do for him.

We didn't. We have dropped the ball. Our own lack of support for the most important step we have ever tried to take is placing this project in peril.

We have no one in the golfing industry to blame but ourselves. It would be easy to throw stones at some of the other golf associations that have not participated, but we

won't. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

We have learned from many years of experience about the great apathy which occupies the minds of the golfing public. We learned a long time ago the difficulty of raising money or awareness for issues that seem insignificant until after they are put into law — too late to do anything about. We have learned that matters such as the new style of shirts or how to get two more foursomes on the golf course or how to squeeze another nickel out of a scotch and soda are more important to owners and members than their loss of access to water and pesticides.

What we should have learned by now is that no one — and I mean *no one* — is going to support our interests but us! If we are to have a voice in Tallahassee then we will have to fund it ourselves. Not with other state golf associations and groups. No sir-ee. Purely and simply, just us.

My hat is off to all those clubs that have tried to support this effort. It is their contributions that have kept us from regressing, not only on the legislative front, but also in our research efforts. Yet it is imperative that we broaden our base of support for this effort if we are to succeed.

There has been some brainstorming among the FGCSA executive committee about this dilemma of fund-raising, not just for the underfunded project mentioned above, but for the various causes we fervently fight for each year.

We will be spelling out to the general membership what some of those ideas and ambitions are at the spring meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors in Naples. It will succeed only if everyone will participate. The local external vice presidents will have details of this plan for their next meeting. Please seek them out and sign up for the program.

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TURF NEWS

ROUNDUP

1991 Golf Course Supply — Top 10 States

Rank	State	Daily Fee	Municipal	Private	Total
1.	Florida	459	100	473	1,032
2.	California	374	178	310	862
3.	New York	400	119	260	779
4.	Michigan	525	84	150	760
5.	Texas	234	156	359	749
6.	Ohio	425	96	192	713
7.	Pennsylvania	374	39	232	645
8.	Illinois	257	157	201	615
9.	North Carolina	257	35	192	484
10.	Wisconsin	276	70	77	423
	Nationwide	6,764	2,259	5,113	14,136

Source: National Golf Foundation

ALSO

The GCSAA is adding a new Pacific Rim office and announcing a conference and trade show for the area in 1993 8

Corporate rebates will be made to GCSAA Scholarship & Research by Lebanon Turf Products for each bag of a Country Club fertilizer sold through Dec. 31, 1993 10

The American Society of Golf Course Architects is urging developers to involve golf course superintendents in the construction phase on new courses. 14

TURF QUIZ

ANSWER

Hailstone damage on all 18 greens. Golf-ball-size hailstones created a great deal of damage.

After the storm, clean-up and repairs on top-dressings finally made greens playable again.

Florida leads nation in new golf course openings but trend unlikely to continue

Florida led the nation in new course openings in 1991 for the seventh consecutive year, according to the National Golf Foundation. But the string is likely to end.

With 35 courses added to the state's inventory last year, Florida widened its lead over California as the state with the most golf courses: 1,032 to 862. California opened 21 new courses last year.

Michigan is likely to capture top honors for 1992, however. According to the NGF, 45 courses are under construction in the Great Lakes state while Florida, which led the nation in this category in 1989 and slipped to third in 1990, dropped into a tie for seventh with Alabama and Texas in 1991. Each state had 24 courses under construction at the end of the year.

Nationally, golf course construction reached a 20-year high-water mark as 351 new layouts opened for play. That's the highest total since 1971, when 371 came on line and comes close to the goal of opening a golf course a day set at the NGF's Golf Summit 1986 at Westchester CC in Rye, N.Y. The totals for 1989 and 1990 were 289 and 290, respectively. The nation had been averaging 150 per year over the previous decade.

These and other statistical insights are contained in the 1992 edition of the NGF's annual *Golf Facilities in the U.S.* report which examines the nation's golf course supply as of Dec. 31.

While 351 openings are certainly good for the industry, NGF officials say this level of activity will be difficult to maintain in light of current development conditions, including:

- ◆ High cost of land.
- ◆ Decline of the real estate market and its impact on the number of future golf courses that will be real-estate related.
- ◆ Availability of financing that does not require a high percentage of equity participation by the borrower.
- ◆ High cost of meeting environmental regulations.

NGF research shows that it takes an average of three years for most golf course development projects to move from conception to completion.

"I seriously question whether we can sustain this level of golf course development activity throughout this decade," says Joe Bedit, NGF president. "Current conditions being what they are, I'd say a rate of 250 a year seems more likely."

The rate probably won't drop all in one year, however. NGF analysts predict that more than 300 courses will open in 1992 because 450 courses have been scheduled to open this year and, historically, about 65 percent of the courses scheduled to open actually do so.

But the number of courses in the planning stages is down 13 percent from 1990 (781 to 681),

so a further drop in openings appears likely.

Richard Norton, NGF's vice president of golf course development, also points to the current decline in the number of golf course development projects that are real estate-related.

"Three to four years ago, upwards of 50 percent of all golf course construction was associated with new housing," he said. "It was simply a reflection of the number of developers who were using golf courses to increase the value of their homesites."

At the end of 1991, however, only 34 percent of the 583 courses under construction — and only 33 percent of those that opened — were related to real estate.

Among other findings in this year's report:

- ◆ The total number of courses in the U.S. stands at 14,136 — the highest number ever.

- ◆ Many new courses have been opened or are being planned and built in the NGF's "Hot Spots" — metro areas where conditions seemed especially favorable for golf course development.

- ◆ Golf in the U.S. remains a predominately public game: 64 percent of the nation's total of 14,136 are public courses as are nearly 80 percent of the 351 that opened last year.

Golf Facilities in the U.S. is one of two major baseline research studies which the NGF conducts annually. The other is *Golf Participation in the U.S.*, which was scheduled to be released as *The Florida Green* went to press.

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GCSAA will add new Pacific Rim office; slates Conference & Trade Show for 1993

The GCSAA has announced it will open a fully-staffed extension office in Singapore to manage membership activities and services in the Pacific Rim countries. And, GCSAA has simultaneously announced that it will sponsor the Pacific Rim Golf Course Conference and Show in Singapore on March 15-21, 1993.

Services provided by GCSAA's Pacific operations will include educational training, certification, publications, conferences, trade shows and research — the same range of activities as in the United States.

The organization's Pacific operations will cover Japan, Guam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Korea, The Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indone-

sia, Australia, New Zealand and India. GCSAA President William R. Roberts, CGCS, said emerging governmental interest and concern over environmental and development issues are driving the need for long-term education and quality control throughout this region.

"No other single organization exists anywhere in this area with the resources to provide the services that GCSAA does. Our long-respected position throughout the world as a leader and standard-bearer for golf course superintendents will give us a competitive edge," Roberts said. GCSAA currently has a growing number of members in this area. Nearly 4,000 golf courses are in operation, with hundreds more under construction or planned. "Because golf is booming in this area of the world, a window of opportunity exists for GCSAA to provide these services to ensure that the standards of world-class golf are being met," Roberts said.

Meeting the educational needs of Pa-

cific Rim golf course management professionals and offering manufacturers and suppliers a cost-effective way to sell their products internationally is the force behind GCSAA's new Conference and Show, said Roberts.

"The booming golf market in this area of the world presents an excellent opportunity for GCSAA. It is our intention — as it has been with our domestic activities — to produce a first-class conference and show with the highest quality level of education possible, and to make the event professionally rewarding for all," he said.

The association already sponsors the largest annual trade show in the industry — the International Golf Course Conference and Show — scheduled for Jan. 23-30, 1993, in Anaheim, Calif.

The Pacific Rim event will be sponsored and operated identically to GCSAA's U.S. conference. A full program of educational sessions, seminars, a distributor program and trade show —



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all planned with multiple-language interpreting — will be offered to exhibitors and attendees. International representatives from Toro, Jacobsen, Ransomes/Cushman, John Deere, Rain Bird, Robert Trent Jones II and Club Car have already committed to participate in the Pacific Rim event. Exhibitor information will be mailed to industry representatives in July. Attendee information will be sent in August.

Corporate rebates to add funds to GCSAA S&R foundation

An exclusive new rebate program offered by Lebanon Turf Products will bring at least \$20,000 in donations to GCSAA Scholarship & Research, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's non-profit foundation.

According to William R. Roberts, CGCS, president of the GCSAA and its S&R board of trustees, Lebanon has agreed to donate 50 cents for each bag of its new Country Club 18-3-18 fairway fertilizer sold between April 6, 1992 and December 31, 1993 to GCSAA S&R.

Lebanon's professional group has committed a minimum of \$20,000 in donations to the 20-month program.

"It's a creative and generous way for a corporation to help us fund some important work," said Roberts. He said the unrestricted gift will be targeted for use in a planned groundwater monitoring program.

Based in Lebanon, Pa., the company supplies fertilizers, and a variety of other plant protectants for golf courses, lawn care professionals, agricultural and home uses. GCSAA Scholarship & Research is a 36-year-old foundation dedicated to providing educational and scientific advancements for the golf course industry.

ASGCA annual meeting focuses on environment, financing of new courses

The first draft of a position statement and guide on environmental impact was presented at the ASGCA's 46th annual meeting scheduled May 3-7 at the Southhampton Inn on Long Island. The other major development seminar focused on the lack of ready financing for golf course construction.

Golf Course Architect Howard Watson Dies

Howard Watson, 84, a former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, died on April 25 from natural causes at his home in LaChute, Quebec. Watson began designing golf courses in 1930, and designed more than 150 golf courses throughout North America. Among his projects are Carling Lake in Pine Hill, Que., LaChute Nos. 1 and 2, LaChute, Que., Pinegrove Country Club, St. Luc, Que., Toronto Board of Trade, Woodbridge, Ont., and the Players Club in Pickering, Ont. Two Canadian Opens, Canada's major championship, have been played on the Pinegrove course. The Canadian architect was elected a member of the ASGCA in 1954 and served as president in 1959. He was elected a Fellow in 1977.



Howard Watson

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