GOLF COURSE

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1 PREMIERE ISSUE



Features

4 GEARING UP for a major tournament

9 GCSAA'S new president looks ahead

20 HURDZAN and economy courses

SUPERS' SHOW OPENS See Details on page 28-32

Departments

SUPER FOCUS Sherwood Moore shares some insights10

NEW COURSES Builders, developers, architects busy17

CALENDAR Turf conferences highlight winter...22

EQUIPMENT NEWS E-Z-GO lists warranty...23

ON THE MOVE Promotions27

NEW PRODUCTS Manufacturers have geared up......35-38

Nation's eyes on board ruling

BY VERN PUTNEY

The Vermont Environmental Board is sitting on a decision that could affect golf course development nationwide.

Scientists and turfgrass professors feel the Environmental Board has slighted their expertise by rejecting the initial request for a golf course in Huntington, Vt., on the grounds pesticides used on the course would threaten groundwater used for drinking as well as a nearby stream.

As the board ponders the developer's

latest appeal in the case, more upset and worry are being aired in the golf course industry and science community.

"Does Vermont know something we don't?" asks Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Massachusetts' Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. His comment is echoed by other scientists.

At the heart of the debate is the 4-year-old effort of Paul Truax and Vermont partners to build an 18-hole golf course as the forerunner of a planned \$22 million resort that would embrace luxury condominiums, hotel, conference center, theater, sports center and chapel in Huntington.

PREMIERE ISSUE

The board, which Nov. 9 again rejected Truax' application to develop the course adjacent to the Sherman Hollow Inc., ski resort, met Jan. Il at Williston to consider an appeal. Because of probable lengthy review, a decision isn't due until Feb. 7.

That ruling isn't expected to be the last word.

Continued on Page 12

Insurance spreading nationwide

BY MARK LESLIE

A veteran employee self-assuredly working with heavy equipment after so many years on the job, gets lackadaisical and a mower blade slashes off his index finger.

An inexperienced lady golfer hops onto a golf cart and promptly puts the vehicle into reverse instead of forward, pinning the caddy master behind her against a wall and breaking his leg.

A spectator at a golf tournament is hit in the head by a ball and returns the favor by suing both the club and the volunteer who was running the tournament.

In mishaps like these two parties can get badly hurt – the individual physically and the golf course in the wallet.

Physical danger seems to be inherent any time you combine machinery and people. The combination personifies Murphy's Law: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong."

But by the end of this year golf courses throughout the country will be able to pro-*Continued on Page 33*

Hyundai eyes cart market Giant hopes to make splash

Dr. Michael Hurdzan, right, and Trivial Pursuit inventor Chris Haney look over land that

Ontario, Canada. See story on Hurdzan and his look at building affordable golf courses on

Hurdzan is designing into an 18-hole course, called Devil's Pulpit, in Caledon Village,

BY MARK LESLIE

pages 20 and 21.

Giant Korean manufacturer Hyundai Corp. U.S.A. expects to be selling golf carts in the United States by the second quarter of this year, according to a company official.

S.S. Cho, senior manager for development at Hyundai's Ft. Lee, N.J., headquarters, said only the legal procedure for permission to import the carts to the United States is holding up production.

Cho, who is in charge of the golf cart project, said the "internal procedure is going *Continued on Page 26*



Green Section's Bill Bengyfield

Builders cite USGA section

The Golf Course Builders of America will honor the USGA Green Section Saturday, Feb. 11, for its "pioneering work in turfgrass research and management."

The GCBA will present the Green Section with its annual award at its banquet at 8 p.m. at the Anaheim (Calif.) Marriott Hotel, during the 60th annual International Golf Course Conference and Show.

Marion Farmer of Los Angeles, former chairman of the USGA Executive Committee's Green Section, will accept the award on behalf of the USGA. But Farmer passed on accolades to Green Section National *Continued on Page 24*

Developers watching Vt. ban

Continued from page 1

Huntington Selectman Reginald Hathorn, gaveled into silence by Jan S. Eastman of Peacham, who chaired the two previous meetings at which five of the nine Environmental Board members unanimously ruled against the Sherman Hollow project, couldn't be denied expression outside the meeting site.

Carpenter Hathorn hammered away at what he termed the board's "shotgun approach" and "running scared" philosophy regarding pesticides. "Too many give lip service to the benefits attending golf courses, then oppose on questionable grounds," declared Hathorn.

Stopped "just short of being escorted from the meeting" by the embattled Eastman after slamming to the table a packet of envelopes containing pro-project petitions from Huntington residents, Hathorn later lamented "lack of board courtesy" in not permitting townspeople's feelings to be made known.

"We're not going to sit back and await a decision. We 're going to set in motion legal machinery, and bring our case to the attention of state legislators," said Hathorn.

He said, "The Huntington Zoning Board of which I was a member debated the local permit extensively and at times hotly. Nine public hearings involving an average of seven-member panels consumed 50 hours.

"Somehow, Sherman Hollow is being equated with a nuclear waste site, rather than a golf course, a facility seen in the rest of the country as a land benefit."

"The February ruling won't be the closing chapter,'" observed Hathorn. "This is an unfolding story. We realize that, because the board has taken such an arbitrary and inflexible posture, it will be difficult to grant a permit. And attorneys may tread lightly around what we believe to be the board's blatantly biased position.

"Any reasonable group poring over the reams of evidence would come to the same conclusion."

Eastman, who several times at the Jan. 11 meeting warned against disturbing the proceedings, maintained that the board had stipulated that additional evidence not be allowed. Board members felt developers couldn't prove the project would not harm the environment.

"The board makes decisions on the basis of evidence presented to it," Eastman pointed out.

Board members had been under mounting pressure from Vermont's general public, Huntington residents and golf course superintendents and architects to reconsider.

Truax terms the ruling "dangerous to the golf course industry nationwide."

"Ours was an exhaustive attempt at safeguards. If the wealth of scientific evidence and support we submitted can be ignored, what can happen to planned course expansion in the rest of the country?" he asked.

Declaring that "the future of golf in Vermont is at stake," members of the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association met Nov. 28 and voiced strong association backing for the Sherman Hollow project.

The District 4 Environmental Commission originally rejected

"If the wealth of scientific evidence ... we submitted can be ignored, what can happen to planned course expansion in the rest of the country?" — Paul Truax the golf course project in October 1987. The Environmental Board concurred. The Environmental Commission and the board considered the proposal under Act 250, the state's main developmentcontrol law.

The debate spilled over into the political arena. While not questioning the integrity of Gov. Madeline Kunin, Truax termed her administration "anti-growth and anti-development." Truax added that had the board made known its *Continued on page 13*

Management termed crucial

Jim Colbert, president of Colbert Enterprises, stresses the importance of quality managers to the success of golf courses.

"We must provide them all the management tools and make it easy for them. But this game is a management game. You can take a facility that's losing money, bring in the same amount of revenue, improve the quality dramatically, and make a profit strictly through management expertise."



Kwik-Trench signs pact

Kwik-Trench Ditch Digger of Lehigh Acres, Fla., will distribute 100 trench diggers in Japan.

Kwik-Trench President Terry Riley said the agreement with Itoman and Co. of Tokyo could be renewed every year with a minimum of 100 orders.

Itoman is a Japanese conglomerate with one of its main businesses in exporting and importing. The company has offices in about 50 countries.

Vermont -Continued from page 12

decision before Election Day, it would have cost Kunin votes among the many favoring the golf course.

"Coincidence" was the governor's office's explanation that the decision was announced the day after the election.

"The board believes the golf course will have an adverse effect during its construction phase, possibly also during its operation," the panel's opinion said. "The pastoral, quiet valley will "I am sure that proper pesticide use on golf courses will have no detrimental effect on the quality of groundwater." - Prof. Karl Deubert

experience a huge upheaval. The very existence of the golf course will change the whole context of the peaceful rural-residential

neighborhood."

The board based that opinion on "the need for a two-year logging operation to clear land for the course and the huge increase in traffic the course would bring."

Truax contends logging time actually would be four months.

Town backs course

Town selectmen don't think that's bad. They've urged Truax not to give up the battle, stressing that the project's strong economic base is the only hope of a community longdepressed economically.

Townspeople apparently feel the same way. A poll taken after the course was turned down indicated up to 80-percent project approval. Those undecided or not greatly interested were among the remaining 20 percent.

A citizens' group formed to urge that the ruling be rescinded has swelled in numbers.

This core hopes to counter another organization, the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, which praised the board "for recognizing that water supplies must be protected."

The board said Truax' application failed to include important information such as what chemicals would be used on the course, or a detailed study of the flow of the groundwater.

'The knowledge of the effects of chemicals is constantly evolving and changing, and pesticides once deemed safe have turned out to be highly toxic," the board said.

Truax says the board wanted an absolute guarantee of no risk from chemicals. "No one can provide that," Truax asserts. "With our team of experts, we can assure minimal risk.

"Ironically, our approach to environmental issues has become a model for others planning courses outside Vermont," Truax said.

Palmer cautious

Truax' troubles haven't gone unnoticed by other developers. Pat McGinnity of the Ringer Corp. in Minneapolis, Minn., is working with the Arnold Palmer Management Group planning an 18-hole private course in Vermont's Windham County. Located between the towns of Stratton and Jamaica, it's now to be called Tamarack rather than Salmon Hole.

"We're preparing a comprehensive pesticide program featuring turf management and embracing maximum precaution and land use compatibility'," said McGinnity. "Our presentation to the Environmental Board will be cautious and complete."

Vermont's golf course tug-of-war has been felt in other parts of the United States. According to Truax, several unsubstantiated statements have surfaced in the national media regarding the Sherman Hollow decision and some have rejoiced in rejection. Opponents of golf courses, on grounds of pesticide fear, are seizing the moment, Truax claims.

But leading authorities in the scientific field say there should be no worry about the pesticides.

Dr. Stuart Cohen, chemist and pesticide expert formerly with the Environmental Protection Agency, testified before the District 4 Environmental Commission on behalf of Sherman Hollow. His findings were adopted and approved by the Massachusetts Continued on page 14

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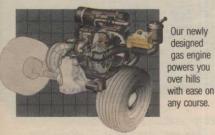
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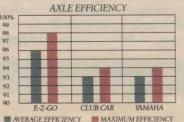


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vertical cylinder for a cooler running, well-lubricated engine. Another new feature is E-Z-GO's exclusive sliding ramp design ground speed governor that contains vehicle speed going down hills and gives a smoother, more

E-Z-GO's electric golf cars feature an improved helical axle differential and a brazed copper armature motor with all copper windings for a superior 96% average efficiency. Our single solenoid, self-adjusting rheostat-type speed control system uses less energy. And our new,



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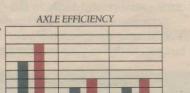


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of fuel; a redesigned, more durable Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT), for less maintenance and a smoother ride; and improved

Vermont-

Continued from page 13 Department of Environmental Quality Engineeering.

Karl H. Deubert, a UMass professor based at the Cranberry Experiment Station in East Wareham, Mass., said: "I am sure that proper pesticide use on golf courses will have no detrimental effect on the quality of groundwater."

"Most pesticide residues in groundwater were found in the 0.01 and 1.0 ppb (parts per billion) range," he said.

Deubert used the postage stamp to illustrate the difference between ppm and ppb. "A one-cent stamp is 7/8 inch wide. One million of these stamps would form a line a little under 14 miles long. Accordingly, one billion of these stamps would form a line almost 14,000 miles long. One part per billion (ppb) would then be equivalent to one one-cent stamp roughly between Boston and New Zealand."

Deubert said, "The reason for excitement about these residue levels is difficult to understand when we may find, in most areas where chlorination is used, up to 1,000 times more chloroform in drinking water (83 ppb being the U.S. average) than pesticide residues where they are detectable."

Unprecedented action

Michael J. O'Connor of Vergennes, environmental chairman, director and past president of the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents, termed the Nov. 9 decision "unprecedented."

O'Connor serves on a subcommittee formed to gather data and form recommendations for the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council, is a spokesperson for the golf course industry in Vermont, and for more than 10 years has been on the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association board of directors.

In a letter to Vermont golf course owners, he noted that the decision went beyond the issue of development.

He wrote: "Your superintendent is concerned with the environment. His greatest pride comes from supervising and reassuring you as owners that your facility is the type of responsible land use so many people enjoy.

"If golf courses in Vermont are to fall victim to unsubstantiated claims, and if the Environmental Commission feels some of the most authoritative experts in the turfgrass industry can be overruled, consider this:

"Golfin Vermont began because the private sector developed the golf course industry. If golf courses pose a health threat, how is it that our Northeast neighbors, and states with some of the strictest environmental laws in the country, have established a working relationship to allow sound landuse decisions to be made?"

O'Connor warned: "As owners, you should be concerned with the political process and how it has affected your reputation within the golf industry."

Kenneth W. Pillsbury of Huntington, a semi-retired dairy farmer and former vocational agriculture teacher in Connecticut, came down hard in favor of the project.

In a Burlington Free Press guest column Nov. 29, Pillsbury wrote: "Sherman Hollow Inc. has received national recognition as having created the most comprehensive program to protect the environment of any golf course in "It is not expected that Sherman Hollow will be a panacea for all of

Huntington's economic and growth problems, but it will certainly provide the town with a more

Inc. has received ition as having t comprehensive protect the -- Huntington resident the United States."

FEBRUARY 1989

Pillsbury contrasted "the glaring difference in approach" by Chittenden County Superior Court Judge Matthew Katz, who last August granted Sherman Hollow a conditional-use zoning permit, and the Environmental Board. He said Katz made an objective effort to examine how such a development would help lessen fiscal and residential development problems Huntington has experienced for many years.

Katz' decision met with cool Continued on page 18

Walker says:

Emphasize pluses

Curt Walker, executive director of the Association of Golf Course Architects of America, emphasizes the benefits of a golf course.

"You have to make the point of the economic plus that the community will derive because of a golf course and the potential developments around the golf course; the advantage of open space and green belt areas in your community," he said.

He added that using effluent for golf course irrigation and providing wildlife with a safe habitat also were advantages of golf courses.

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shortbox dumping, flatbed box dumping, the Quick Aerator, and the Greensaver Aerator. Optional PTO for the spreader/seeder, Vicon Spreader, Cushman Top Dresser, 100 or 150-Gallon sprayers, hand gun and

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Storage tank law takes effect

(USTs) must meet new requirements.

The EPA has set financial responsibility standards for owners and operators of buried petroleum and chemical tanks.

Owners and operators must

any leaks from USTs. Costs might include clean-up,

damage correction and compensation of third parties for personal and property loss. Golf course owners and

operators must show "financial

"Those who seem to appreciate

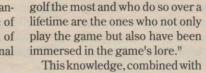
Underground storage tanks ensure that they can cover costs of assurance" in the form of at least \$1 million in aggregate funds and another \$500,000 for each tank.

> Although the financial rules become effective early in 1989, full compliance will be phased in over a two-year period for smaller businesses.

Wiren says people should learn history, lore

Dr. Gary Wiren, author of a new PGA of America instruction manual, highlights the importance of knowing the history and lore of golf as well as the instructional aspects of the game.

ermon



quality instruction, he added, helps make the game more enjoyable. Dr. Wiren challenged PGA professionals to use their skills toward making golf an enjoyable experience.



PestCaster new name

Neogen Corp. has renamed its "PestCaster" to "EnviroCaster," says President Jim Herbert.

The EnviroCaster has been installed in rapidly increasing numbers of golf courses, farms and orchards around the world.

When equipped with appropriate sensors, the field-installed system can monitor, record and evaluate air temperatures, rainfall, degree days, dewpoint, leaf wetness, relative humidity, soil temperatures, solar intensity, wind direction and wind speed.

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For 18 years, the Greensmaster® 3000 from Toro has been delivering an unsurpassed quality of cut. Now you can get that same quality of cut in a new diesel model, the Greensmaster 3000-D. The 3000-D is designed with a smooth 17 hp, liquid-cooled diesel engine for increased power and durability. Just what you need for long hours of use on greens, aprons or even fairways.

Toro's 5, 8 and 11 bladed cutting units in combination with an optional variable speed kit help make this precision cutting possible by allowing you to select a consistent ground speed while maintaining a constant, even clip.



A "Quick up - Quick down" adjustment on the cutting unit lets you raise or lower the grooming reel without losing the depth setting. Depth adjustment is easy too. No tools are needed.

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Continued from page 15 reception from the board, which rebutted: "The substance of the court's decision is not a 'fact,' and the accuracy of the findings therein is subject to 'reasonable dispute.' The court decision is therefore not a proper matter for official notice. Furthermore, the decision was reached in the context of an appeal of a conditional-use permit granted to Sherman Hollow by the town of

Huntington." Pillsbury charged the board with giving "absolutely no recognition of the very positive benefits to Huntington.'

"Huntington is not an affluent community," he pointed out. "With

"It is not expected that **Sherman Hollow will** be a panacea for all of Huntington's economic and growth problems, but it will certainly provide the town with a more promising, a more secure future."

the demise of all but five working farms, we are rapidly becoming a bedroom community. With limited small commercial property and no industrial property, the town depends for its tax revenue almost entirely on homeowners and landowners.

"It is not expected that Sherman Hollow will be a panacea for all of Huntington's economic and growth problems, but it will certainly provide the town with a more promising, a more secure future than without it," Pillsbury concluded.

The Free Press was far more restrained in a Nov. 30 editorial, declaring that rejection was based entirely on technical pollution issues. The Free Press maintained there was no evidence to support charges that Gov. Kunin was somehow interfering with the board to get an "anti-growth" decision.

Some Vermonters feel six golf courses in the greater Burlington area are sufficient. West Bolton, Essex and Wolf Run are within a 15-minute ride.

This outlook apparently doesn't Continued on page 19

Courses' environmental self-audit kit ready

An exciting step into the future of golf course management will be unveiled during the International Golf Course Conference and Show at Anaheim, Calif.

William Rogers will detail an environmental self-auditing package that will be made available to golf course superintendents.

It has been designed to help courses keep pace and comply with expanding scrutiny by governmental environmental boards and regulations. Roberts, course superintendent at Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., and a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's board of directors, has been field-testing this kit for project sponsors GCSAA and Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Services.

Hall-Kimbrell, whose corporate offices are near GCSAA's national headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., has evaluated, designed and managed projects at more than 3,000 The kit offers users a method to anticipate potential regulatory and legal liabilities

public schools and 150 colleges and universities.

Hall-Kimbrell has completed an extensive review of federal and

state regulations as they relate to golf course operations.

Outgrowth of that study is a checklist and recommendations, instructional videotape and printed materials for course evaluation.

The kit, which offers users a method to anticipate potential regulatory and legal liabilities, costs GCSAA members \$725, non-members \$900.

Upon return to Hall-Kimbrell, the self-audit is reviewed by computers through an automated response system, the data sorted, and an analysis performed.

The project team then provides a point-by-point compliance appraisal. Results are kept confidential.

Steve Wharton, Hall-Kimbrell project manager, visited courses from Maine to California to determine the environmental problems and needs of superintendents.

Since last October, a dozen courses have been involved in the new program.

Hall-Kimbrell's booth at the Trade Show in Anaheim will provide literature explaining the program and will have a video tape presentation.

Those not ordering the kit at Anaheim may do so through GCSAA Membership Services, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kan. 66046.

Vermont

Continued from page 18

extend to Vermont's New England neighbors. Maine lists 13 courses due for expansion or construction, New Hampshire has 10 under construction, and Massachusetts is in the market for 11.

Vermont lags with three courses due for construction or addition in 1989, and possibly three in the planning stage for 1990.

Ski resorts sparked Vermont's biggest golf course boom, in the 1960s and 1970s. New Hampshire now is following that pattern.

"Well over 200" courses are being built annually in the United States, according to figures compiled by leading golf course architect Geoffrey S. Cornish of Amherst, Mass.

Cornish adds that the current 57 Vermont courses (two of which are private) can't accommodate interested tourists, many from wealthy Westchester (N.Y.) County.

"Golfers are big spenders, in the proshop, clubhouse and dining room. If Vermont club regulars have courses tied up in the summer, tourists must look to other states," Cornish said.

The National Golf Foundation believes 375 layouts annually will be needed by the year 2,000 to absorb the expected player surge from the current 21.7 million to 30 million.

Up-in-the-air Sherman Hollow may not get off the ground to be part of this progress.

Ann Leslie, EPA chemist who works out of Alexandria, Va., is among those disappointed at the Sherman Hollow impasse.

She had hoped to use that course as one of 10 pilot projects.

However, she said, "we need 10 existing courses. The first year or two, there usually are no pests. When they emerge, we evaluate and study how to control."

Right now, Sherman Hollow's future rests in the hands of nine beleaguered board members.

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that same quality of cut with increased power and durability. For more information on either machine call your local Toro distributor. You'll see for yourself what the world has enjoyed for years.

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