

GOLF COURSE NEWS

PREMIERE ISSUE
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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.

The board, which Nov. 9 again rejected Truax' application to develop the course adjacent to the Sherman Hollow Inc., ski resort, met Jan. 11 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.

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Dr. Michael Hurdzan, right, and Trivial Pursuit inventor Chris Haney look over land that Hurdzan is designing into an 18-hole course, called Devil's Pulpit, in Caledon Village, Ontario, Canada. See story on Hurdzan and his look at building affordable golf courses on pages 20 and 21.

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-
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Hyundai eyes cart market

Giant hopes to make splash

BY MARK LESLIE

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
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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
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