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# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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## Courses breaking hazwaste law

BY MARK LESLIE

Most golf courses today are breaking the law.

Only 45 percent of the Club Managers Association of America members questioned in a poll say their clubs have a hazard communication program, and an industry ex-

pert feels even that is a high figure.

A poll conducted by Public Opinion Research, Inc., of Washington, D.C., and CMAA's Governmental Affairs Department found that only 56 percent of the managers polled had even heard about the law requiring a hazard communication program.

The law, which originally targeted heavy industry and manufacturing, was expanded to cover golf courses among other businesses in May 1988.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports that lack of a

*Continued on page 28*



*This 18th hole displays a portion of the beauty of New England Country Club in Bellingham, Mass., designed by Hale Irwin and developed by Forge Development Corp. For more on this and other new courses, see pages 10 and 11.*

## Beditz leads NGF into future

BY BOB DRUM

The National Golf Foundation is "its strongest in history," says Dr. Joseph F. Beditz, its new president and chief operating officer. "I'm inheriting a healthy club and want to keep it up and keep improving."

Beditz, 38, who had been in the job in an acting status since David B. Hueber resigned in January, has high hopes since being handed the post permanently after a May 2 NGF board meeting.

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## Drought woes plague courses

BY KATHY BISSELL

The drought situation continues to affect golf courses in all parts of the country.

Most severely hit are areas of Northern California, according to Don Hoos, director of agronomy for Landmark Land Co., Inc., which has 22 courses from California to Florida.

"In Carmel and Monterey the underground aquifer is not as good as in some areas. There has already been a 20-percent reduction request for industrial users, which includes golf courses, hotels and resorts," Hoos explained. "They can achieve 20 percent by being more careful with irrigation, maintaining minimum levels for grass, not watering roughs. The greens,

*Continued on page 16*

## Oregon seed law vote soon

A decision is expected in mid-June on a proposed field-burning law in Oregon that may endanger the entire supply of U.S.-produced cool-season golf course grasses.

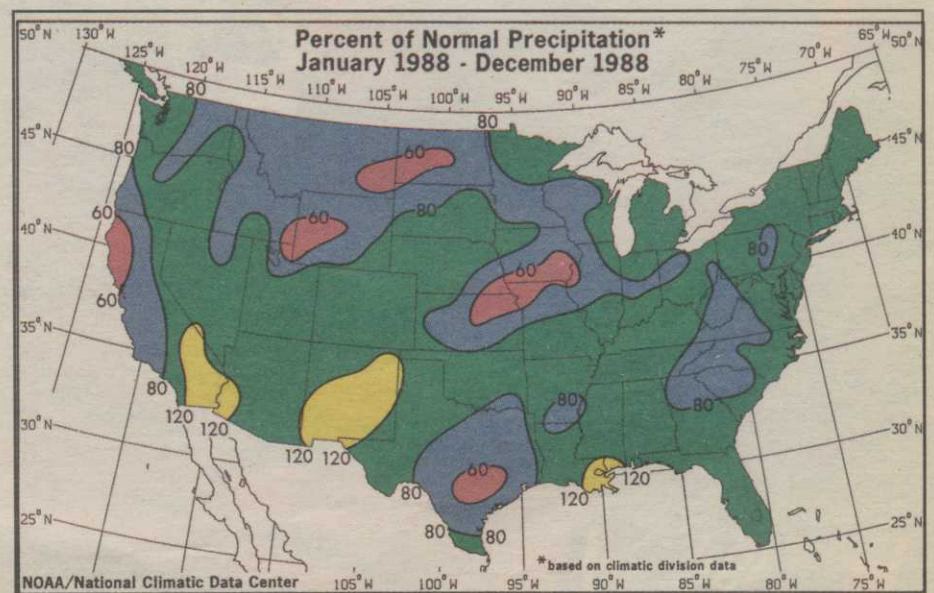
Observers close to the Oregon state Legislature say the seed industry has enough support in the House to kill any bill that would be too damaging to the 70 seed companies and 800 farmers who grow seed in the state.

But Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission, is not taking anything or anyone for granted.

"Things have to cook and take their time" in the legislative process, he said. "We're proceeding through the process but we won't know anything for sure until the final vote on the floor."

Another industry expert said the state Senate in mid-May was taking a harsh stand that would have cut the number of acres that could be burned in the state from 250,000 to 150,000 this fall, then to 100,000 acres in 1990, and 50,000 in 1991 and thereafter. The Senate at that time supported raising the fee farmers pay per acre burned from the current \$3.50 to \$20 or \$25 an acre in 1992. A total of 345,000 acres produces grass seed in the state.

*Continued on page 19*



*This map from the National Climatic Data Center, NOAA shows the percent of normal precipitation around the United States for the entire year of 1989.*



# CALENDAR

## June

1-2 — ASSINSEL (International Association of Plant Breeders for the Protection of Varieties) Congress at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem, Israel. Register with Arlinda Dorsett, Secretary to International Marketing Director, American Seed Trade Association, 1030 15th St., N.W., Suite 964, Washington, D. C. 20005.

7-8 — Landscape Industries Exhibition at the National Agricultural Centre in England. Telephone 0203-696969 in England.

8-11 — Grand Traverse Resort's Traverse Cup for golf industry leaders, sanctioned by "The Golfe," an association of industry golf enthusiasts. It is being played in Traverse City, Mich.

12-14 — Third annual Jacklin Seed Co. Turfgrass Discovery Tour for grass seed distributors and researchers at the company headquarters in Post Falls, Idaho. It will include field and research tours, including viewing the improved turf-type tall fescue varieties, hybrid Kentucky bluegrass accessions, third-generation turf-type perennial ryegrass selections and hybrids, improved cold-tolerant bermudagrass, and the first commercially available seeded zoysiagrass variety. For more information

contact Gayle Ward as Jackson, W. 5300 Riverbend Ave, Post Falls, Idaho 83854-9499.

14 — Golf Writers Association of America will hold a general membership meeting at 10 a.m. in the interview area of the press tent at the U.S. Open at Oak Hills Country Club in Rochester, N.Y.

14 — USGA's annual U.S. Open cocktail hour and dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at Rochester, N.Y.

12-15 — Australian Water Technology Exhibition, Sydney, Australia. For more information contact International Conferences and Exhibitions, Ltd., 29 Deering St., London W1R 9AA, United Kingdom.

15 — First Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Putting Invitational from 7 to 11 p.m. at Stouffer Rochester Plaza Hotel at 70 State St., Rochester, N.Y. Superintendents' competition is set for 8 p.m. and media competition at 9 p.m. Cash and trophies will be awarded. People should RSVP to GCSAA at 913-841-2240 or 800-472-7878.

25-29 — American Seed Trade Association meeting, including election of officers, at J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. Contact ASTA at Suite 964, Executive Building, 1030 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; 202-223-4080.

## July

13-17 — 114th convention of the American Association of Nurserymen at the Sheraton and Parkview Hilton hotels in Hartford, Conn. For further information contact the American Association of Nurserymen, 1250 I St., N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005; 202-789-2900.

30-Aug. 2 — 44th annual meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. For information telephone 515-289-2331.

## August

9 — New England Nurserymen's Association summer meeting hosted by Golf Star Turf Farms in Canterbury, N.H., providing an in-depth look at turf production, a trade show and large equipment displays.

2-16 — The annual meeting of the Association of American Seed Control Officials at Hotel Niagara in downtown Niagara Falls, N.Y. For more information contact Ronald Barrett of the New York Department of Agriculture, 1 Winner's Circle, Capitol Plaza, Albany, N.Y., 12235-0001; telephone 518-457-2087.

## September

19-21 — Royal Windsor '89 Institute of Groundsmanship Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition at the Royal Windsor Racecourse in England. Telephone 0908-311856 for information.

## October

4-6 — Golf Course Europe, an international exhibition and conference on the design, construction and maintenance of golf

courses and on golf club management, at Rhein/Main Halls, Wiesbaden, West Germany. For more information contact Allard J. Hoogland at Expoconsult, P.O. Box 200, 3600 AE Maarssen, Holland; telephone 03465-73777.

25-27 — 1989 Southwest Turfgrass Conference at the Albuquerque (N.M.) Convention Center will include the SWTG Conference, Turf and Ornamental Insect Management Workshop and a golf tournament. For more information contact the Southwest Turfgrass Association at New Mexico State University, P.O. Box 3AE, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003.

## November

4 — Lawn Seed Conference at Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Mo. For more information contact the American Seed Trade Association, 1030 15th St., N.W., Suite 964, Washington, D. C. 20005.

4-7 — Western Seedsmen's meeting in Kansas City, Kansas.

12-15 — International Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference in Anaheim, Calif. For information contact Ann Sheridan, Irrigation Association, 1911 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1009, Arlington, Va. 22209; 703-524-1200.

## Please inform us

If you have an event coming up, please write to *Golf Course News* about it. The address is P.O. Box 767, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.

# Seminars for supers spotlight changes

Golf course design has had deep impact on the game, as well as on landscape esthetics, ecology and integration of golf courses into communities.

Seminars are being coordinated to keep course superintendents informed of increasingly complex problems and the changing technological society.

A presentation on a wide range of allied subjects, held annually at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., will be conducted June 15-16.

Lecturers are architects Geoffrey S. Cornish of Amherst, Mass., and Robert Muir Graves of Walnut Creek, Calif., both past

presidents of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Cornish, an honorary member of the equivalent British association, has designed more than 200 courses now in play. He has taught courses related to golf course design at the University of Massachusetts.

Graves has been involved in designing, remodeling or consulting on 300 courses throughout the United States and abroad, working in all vegetative and climatic zones.

The Cornish-Graves course is intended for architects, landscape architects, site planners and others.

The basics of golf course design are re-

viewed, and problems inherent in the integration of golf with homes, highways, other forms of recreation, offices and industrial parks are explored.

Participants receive a text describing the history of golf course design and its influence on contemporary courses.

A golf course development manual — explaining layout configurations, site factors and community planning issues — also is provided.

Drawing board exercises, monitored by instructors, and class critiques are featured.

Key topics include routing the course and siting the clubhouse; parking, cart storage

and maintenance areas; integrating golf with other facilities and access roads to achieve both safety for abutters and playing interest in the course; design in golf course architecture.

Also, interrelationships among individual golf holes; creating course traffic areas; construction of greens, trees and fairways; and construction equipment, techniques and development costs.

For further information, contact William Saunders, Professional Development Program, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138. (617)-495-9340.

# Hazwaste law

From page 1

hazard communication program is the number one violation of the law in the country. Breaking this law can carry civil and criminal penalties.

Yet the 45 percent compliance rate found in the CMAA poll is inflated, according to the experience of Steve Wharton, environmental audit project manager for Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Services in Lawrence, Kansas, who has been working with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and its members nationwide to comply with environmental regulations.

After speaking with about 1,000 superintendents at 15 chapters, Wharton said, "If this poll said 45 percent had a program, they had a select group."

"That's probably twice or three times what I've found."

The law requires the golf course to do an inventory of hazardous materials on the premises, maintain that inventory, get the appropriate safety information together, train the employees, and document that training.

That has to be done when they are initially hired and when new materials are

introduced to the workplace.

About 19 states have imposed additional regulations to the federal OSHA law. Thomas Marks of Fowler Agency Inc., which insures golf courses, said in New Jersey the general public must be notified by a sign at the first and 10th tees that:

"On these premises pesticides are applied. For a schedule contact such-and-such," he says,

"Workers have a right to know about hazardous materials in their workplace. That's what this law is designed to provide," says Wharton.

Many commonplace products besides fertilizers and pesticides are encompassed by this program, such as gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, WD-40, solvents, all kinds of things that are in use in the maintenance operation.

"Even moving into the clubhouse you have industrial cleansers, boiler cleaners, a whole array of products that fall subject to this law," Wharton says. "So you may have the golf course superintendent involved but you also have to get the club manager or general manager involved in the compliance activity as well."

Wharton said Hall-Kimbrell has been focusing on the requirements for the maintenance operation "and the superintendent is the key player in that. Most of the time your green committee and board of directors rely on the superintendent to make sure things are in compliance."

He feels superintendents haven't complied with the law before now because of "lack of knowledge of the law and also lack of enforcement activity."

But that enforcement may be picking up. Superintendents have been inspected in California, Florida and Washington state at least, Wharton says, and farmers in Pennsylvania have been inspected.

"Basically they were notified of a couple of areas where they were not in compliance and they were given 30 to 60 days to upgrade their operation and come into compliance," he says.

"Usually OSHA will do a followup visit to see what kind of progress you have made."

"Very seldom — unless it's very flagrant or potentially environmentally hazardous or particularly high-risk situation — will they immediately impose a fine. Usually what they will do is give you a notice you're in

violation and give you a period of time to get that turned around. But even 30 days is a short time to go out and get somebody lined up to do the training, put a program together, check over the inventory and those things. But if you know about it and are working on it, you don't have to be in a reactionary mode and do things in such short order."

Wharton says, "It is a definite area of concern, for two reasons: One, they are not meeting a federal standard and there are obvious civil and even criminal penalties for not being in compliance. It could certainly cost them money or raise other concerns."

"The other issue — more of a moral issue — is the point of worker exposure and liability."

Plus, he says, it is a safeguard against against an employee alleging that they have had some work-related disorder because of a hazardous material at the course.

"If you don't have documented training — including the use of proper protective equipment and emergency response procedures — then you don't have much of a leg to stand on when you go into court," Wharton says.