

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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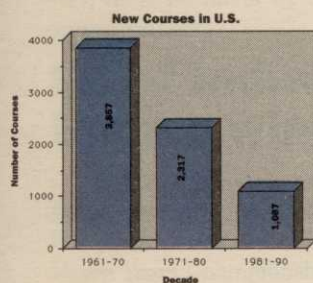
The Best of 1989!

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Source: NGF

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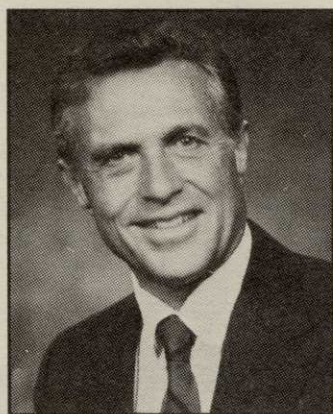
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Wadsworth voted No. 1 builder of '89

BY PETER BLAIS
"We've always felt that how well we've done our job depends on how the architects see what we've accomplished. We want to see them get what they want out of their design."

That's how company founder and chairman of the board Brent Wadsworth explains the success of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., voted 1989 Builder of the Year in *Golf Course News*' survey of architects.



Brent Wadsworth
Voted Best Builder of 1989

Wadsworth received nearly one-fourth of the votes cast, more
Continued on page 29

Fazio named top architect of the year

BY PETER BLAIS
This has been a good year for Tom Fazio. But so was last year, and the year before that and the year before that and... "They all kind of blend together for me," answered the man voted the 1989 Architect of the Year in *Golf Course News*' first survey of course designers, when asked if this year was special.

"I'm just amazed at the quality of products we (architects)



Tom Fazio
Voted Best Architect of 1989

are able to build today. High quality is what developers and owners
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Subsurface injection project wins raves

BY MARK LESLIE
The success of work on equipment that injects pesticides below the surface of the turf where grubs live should prod researchers to develop a wide range of new products to fight pests.

Ohio State University Professors Harry Niemczyk, an entomologist, and Erdal Ozkan, an agricultural engineer, have completed a season of research on their project and are excited by its prospects.

Niemczyk cited data showing that the "liquid injection subsurface placing system" they are developing can put the product
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A panoramic view of Pinon Hills Golf Course in Farmington, N.M., shows the 11th green in the foreground and the elevation changes on No. 15 tees in the background. For more information on this course, designed by Finger Dye Spann of Houston, Texas, and others, see pages 10 and 11.

Florida project targets families

BY MARK LESLIE
The family orientation of a proposed golf facility turned it from a loser to a winner in the zoning process and will turn it into a reality this spring in Orlando, Fla.

Golf Unlimited will start construction in January on the Lake Under Hill Golf Center, which will include a fully lighted, nine-hole par 3 course, complete driving range, putting course and miniature golf layout.

But the 26-acre facility was a wipeout in June when heavy opposition from neighbors contributed to an Orange County Commission denial of zoning approval on the grounds the project was too commercial for the mainly residential area.

"We got an extension of the request," said

Golf Unlimited's Jack Irwin, "and met with homeowners and told them the facility would enhance, not hurt, their neighborhood. We went back to the commission with neighborhood support and got unanimous (5-0) approval."

The turning point, Irwin believes, came when neighbors realized the project will stress the family.

"We planned it with the family in mind," he said. "Dad can bring the kids out and teach them or let them play miniature golf while he and his wife are playing."

It is a concept Irwin expects to continue working with. He already plans a second family golf center in Orlando and may look for other opportunities working out of his

Orlando and Knoxville, Tenn., offices. The idea of lighting a course has been successful at two facilities in Myrtle Beach, N.C., and another in Daytona, Fla.

But the Orlando project is believed the first with its particular amenities.

"We'll give the average player — who can't afford to belong to a country club and works all day — and the beginner a chance to play in the winter and summer. It will be great for seniors," Irwin said.

The longest of the nine holes will be 160 yards, and Irwin said: "The lights will be very high-quality; you'll be able to follow the flight of the ball all the way. It will be a first-class course with wall-to-wall irrigation..."

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Wadsworth

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ment on today's courses, according to Wadsworth.

"The other major difference is the number of courses being built," he said.

"You could almost count the number of new courses on two hands in the mid-1950s. Now you've got well over 200 courses a year in this country and we've been as high as 350. We've tried to keep pace with that increase."

OSU

Continued from page 1

exactly where you want it and leave residue of less than one-half a part per million of the insecticide on the grass blade. "You look at those results and then you really begin to think about the implications," he said.

For example, he mentioned the milky disease (a bacterial disease that infects grubs). Each Japanese beetle has one species of this disease that is formulated in a product that is available but it is specific to the Japanese beetle. The masked chaffer has its own basili; aetenas has its own basili that's not infectious against the Japanese beetle but only infectious against the aetenas.

"There's no market for these other species of basili right now because there's no efficient way to apply them," Niemczyk said. "But now that we've come up with an efficient way of placing them in narrow bands below the surface three inches apart, it's entirely possible that we may develop the other species of the basili (milky disease) that is infectious against other species of grubs so that we can use them, too."

"So it opens the door to a possibility that didn't exist before because we had no efficient way (at least theoretically) of putting the material down. A lot of people are interested."

Ringer, the company that has the controlling interest in the milky disease product, is interested in preparing it in such a way that it will stay in suspension or stay better. Plus, the researchers used some granular material in their experiments last summer, and the parasitic nematodes can be placed in liquid suspension.

"That is the most exciting part," Niemczyk said, "because I think we can make these biological control materials work the year they are applied... That remains to be demonstrated research-wise, but I am convinced that we can do it."

Niemczyk said the research "still has a ways to go. We've learned a number of things. We've learned that the material has to be placed correctly — if it's with grubs it has to be placed where the grub is or slightly above that. With the Rain Saver (equipment) we placed it 1/4 to 1/2 inch below that and that didn't work as well as a surface application which told us that the

Among the courses Wadsworth has worked on this year are Tom Fazio's Shadow Creek in Las Vegas; Michael Hurdzan's Cobblestone Creek in Rochester, N.Y.; Arthur Hills' Green Ridge Country Club in Grand Rapids, Mich.; Jack Nicklaus' Kiele-Westin in Hawaii; Denis Griffith's Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation GC in Clearwater, Fla.; Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s Southern Palms Ranch in Desert Springs, Calif.; and Rees Jones' Greenbriar Country Club in New Bern, N.C.

Increased building has turned golf course construction into a very competitive business with many new

contractors having been attracted to the field.

"You've got a lot of contractors who have been successful in other areas who are jumping into golf course work," noted Eldredge.

"Sometimes they make it and sometimes they don't. Those that fail often don't understand what's involved and don't bid high enough on a job. In the end, it's the owner and architect who lose.

"The key always comes back to quality and good business practices that can help you get through the rough times. You must satisfy the architects. They're like artists. We

(construction companies) are like a big paint brush. It's up to us to paint what they have in mind."

One innovative approach Wadsworth has taken to assure quality work is employee ownership. Wadsworth is divided into four companies — Wadsworth Midwest, Southeast, Southwest and Pacific. The employees own as much as 50 percent of each firm.

"I wanted to create the same business spirit that I had when I first started," said the company's founder. "I wanted people to feel they were a part of the company and be totally involved in what they were doing. It's

proven to be worthwhile and is probably one of the major reasons we have the reputation we do."

Despite a hot course-building market, 1989 was an average year, at best, in terms of profits, according to Eldredge. The reason was the weather.

"We did a lot of work in the Midwest and the weather was just horrible at times. It pushed a lot of projects back that we won't be able to seed until spring. 1990 is looking good," Eldredge said.

"There'll be a little lull over the winter. But it looks like we'll have a lot of activity next year," he added.

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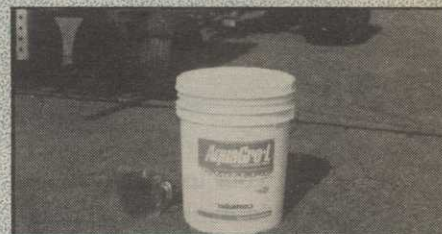
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EQUIPMENT NEWS

Neogen ranked among fastest-growing firms

Neogen Corp., a Lansing, Mich.-based biotechnology firm, has been ranked the 46th fastest growing private company in the nation by "Inc." magazine. One of Neogen's three primary product lines is the EnviroCaster, a computerized, solar-powered agricultural and turf management instrument.

The Inc. 500 list is based on percentage growth in sales from 1984 to 1988. To qualify, companies must have been independent and privately held as of July 3 and maintain sales between \$100,000 and \$25 million. More than 20,000 potential candidates received nominations for the 1989 listing.

Hunter honors Sarsfields for achievement

Irrigation industry technical consultants Chet and Wanda Sarsfield of Lafayette, Calif., have been presented the Hunter Industries' 1989 Industry Achievement Award at a national distributor meeting in San Diego.

As owners of a textbook publishing firm, Irrigation Technical Services, the Sarsfields were honored for their educational contributions to the field of irrigation.

Chet Sarsfield's textbook, "The ABCs of Lawn Sprinkler Systems," is widely used in college landscape design programs and is recognized



Hunter Industries founder Edwin J. Hunter, right, presents an achievement award to Chet and Wanda Sarsfield.

as one of the most authoritative publications in the field. He has also written many irrigation technical manuals for agricultural en-

gineers, ornamental horticulturists and landscape architects.

Wanda Sarsfield is a partner in Irrigation Technical Services and has served as executive secretary for the Northern California Turfgrass Council. She was also the national executive secretary for the American Society of Irrigation Consultants. She has been the the CLCA state treasurer for Grass Widows.

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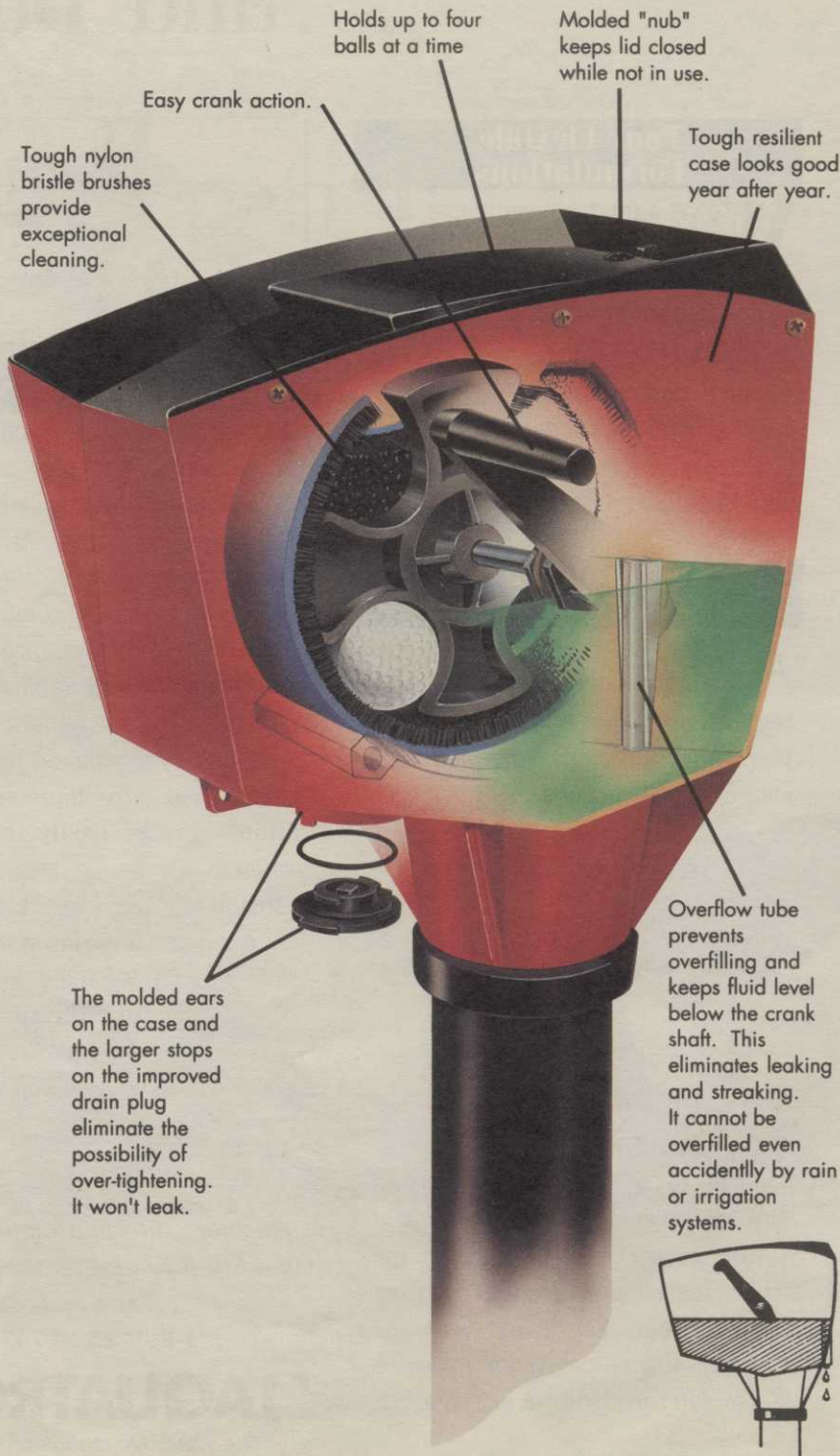
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Lofts opens Ohio branch

Lofts Seed Inc. has formed a new branch in Wilmington, Ohio.

Lofts/Ohio will market seed for spring, with shipments starting in late December to Ohio, areas of Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia and Michigan. A complete line of Lofts' turfgrasses, wildflowers, lawn fertilizer and farm products (forage grasses and legumes) will be stocked.

The branch will be managed by David Goodwin, who most recently managed DeWine Seed Co. in Ohio.

Kohler adds distributor

Kohler Co.'s Engine Division has added Power Systems as a central distributor for Kohler engine products in Idaho, Utah, northeastern Nevada and southwestern Wyoming.

Power Systems serves lawn and garden, construction and industrial industries as a supplier of four-cycle, air-cooled gasoline engines.

Power Systems will supply the full line of Kohler engines, parts and accessories, and service.

Bob Barnhart is the sales manager for Power Systems' Engine Division. The firm has offices at 4499 Market St., Boise, Idaho; and 540 W. 3615 S., Salt Lake City, Utah.

OSU

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grubs never did move into the zone where the pesticide is.

"Grubs are usually at the thatch-soil interface when there's thatch there. That can be 1/2 inch, one inch, it depends... If there is no thatch there, then you would want to apply it 1 inch, 2 inches at most, beneath the surface."

The entomologist said the research proved that with the Rain

Continued on page 33



Boring guide released by Ditch Witch

A concise guide to the applications and advantages of the many types of underground boring equipment available today has been published by Ditch Witch.

The 16-page, illustrated Ditch Witch Trenchless Technology Applications Guide gives an objective look at extended-range guided boring systems, rod pushers, impact muling tools, augers and fluid-assisted boring systems.

These boring systems are explained and their advantages and disadvantages compared with other trenchless technologies.

The guide is available by contacting The Charles Machine Works, Inc., P.O. Box 66, Perry, Okla. 73077 or calling (800) 654-6481. Circle No 252

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Saver the chemicals can be place exactly where they will be most effective.

"We placed it too deep this year but with some modifications we can put it exactly where we want it," Niemczyk said.

He said his research is not contractually tied to Rain Saver and that he has also spoken with Cushman-Ryan and Olathe representatives.

"Anybody who can design a piece of equipment to accomplish this objective — placing materials beneath the surface and leaving little or nothing on the surface — I'm interested in talking to," he said.

The Rain Saver equipment was designed for polymers, and the company loaned the Ohio State researchers a piece of equipment for their project.

Niemczyk said he has been working with Cushman-Ryan on an overseeder "to see how well we can subsurface place granular materials. There are some shortcomings in regard to placing the material that now we've talked with Cushman-Ryan about and if they are interested they may want to modify their equipment."

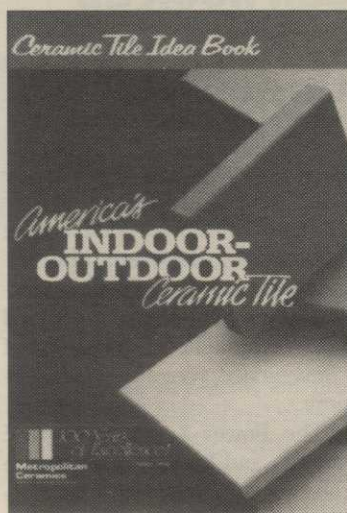
"I'm a biologist (not manufacturer). If someone comes along with a piece of equipment they think may do the job, I'm willing to test it," he added. "And until I have someone else's equipment I'm going to use the equipment I have now."

Metropolitan prints idea book

The new eight-page, full-color "Ceramic Tile Idea Book" from Metropolitan Ceramics details the design versatility of indoor/outdoor ceramic tile.

The literature is complete with residential and commercial tile installation photos, pattern ideas, color swatches, performance specifications, special trim shapes, a copy of the company's warranty installation and maintenance recommendations, and a sample architectural specification.

Form more information contact Metropolitan Ceramics, P.O. Box 9240, Canton, Ohio 44711; 216-484-4876. Circle No 253



NEW LITERATURE

'Make Money Mowing Grass' book enters third printing

The third edition of the handbook "How To Earn at Least \$60 Per Hour Mowing Grass . . . And Still Be the Low Bidder" was printed in December.

Author Roy H. Ruebenstahl Jr. has been a mowing contractor for 15 years.

His 193-page booklet contains information on how to run a more

profitable business by eliminating the peaks and valleys in hourly profits and avoiding pricing a job too low.

The postage paid price is \$29.95 and can be paid by check or money order sent to GOMC, 10490 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, Ky. 40299.

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