

Bengeyfield, Hurdzan, Wadsworth on board

We set several goals early in our strategic planning that will have a positive influence on the continued success of this publication. I am proud to announce that we attained another goal this month.

We have established an editorial advisory board that will give direction and even more credibility to our consistent editorial product. You'll notice three new names added to the masthead this month: William Bengeyfield, Dr. Michael Hurdzan and Brent Wadsworth.

Anyone involved in golf course design, maintenance, building and development will no doubt be familiar with these gentlemen. Let



von Brecht

me briefly bring you up to date on their accomplishments. Bill Bengeyfield retired May 1 as national director of the USGA Green Section, where he served in that capacity since 1982. He received the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award at the February convention. He is active in turfgrass management associations and recently wrote revisions of the USGA green construction specifications.

Mike Hurdzan is CEO of the recently formed Hurdzan Design Group of Columbus, Ohio. Mike has a long list of degrees, including a PhD in environmental turfgrass physiology and a master's in turf studies, and is working on a master's degree in landscape architecture.

The Hurdzan Design Group may be one of the busiest golf course architectural firms today, working on a wide range of projects, from lower-cost municipal facilities to the \$25-million Devil's Pulpit course being built outside Toronto, Ontario.

Mike also has served as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Brent Wadsworth started his golf course construction business with John Cotter in 1958 in Plainfield, Ill. In the 30-plus years in the business, Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. has built courses across the country and in Hawaii.

The firm has 200 full-time employees, with offices in Florida,

Arizona and Illinois. Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. was recently voted Builder of the Year through a Golf Course News survey of golf course architects.

Jim McLoughlin also serves on the editorial advisory board and has been a sounding board for us from the first issue. Jim is the former executive director of the GCSAA and currently heads up a variety of golf course consulting businesses that take him worldwide.

I had the pleasure of watching Greg Norman play an 18-hole exhibition with Bill Butner, John Huston and Jay Overton on the Copperhead at Innisbrook in Tarpon Springs, Fla. Greg was playing for charity and promoting the JC Penney Classic, which will be played in the late fall at Innisbrook. He is not only a world-class player (maybe the best in the world), he is a world-class person!

—Charles E. von Brecht
Publisher

COMMENT

Beware of Big Scare from abroad

BY MARK LESLIE

Golf Course Builders of America President Perry Dye will tell you that this is a tiny world, shrinking by the day. That communications satellites, telephones, FAX machines, and multilingualism together mean you and I and Bernhard Langer are as close as next-door neighbors.

That fads and trends in today's world become international by the same technology that makes it possible to view the Wimbledon tournament live.

Today Manhattan. Tomorrow the world.

It seems to be so. And, if so, the golf course industry in America — and globally for that matter — would be well advised to remove any rose-colored glasses it may be wearing, pull out the magnifying glass, and scrutinize Japan.

That land-poor country is in the throes of a "green backlash" battle. Golf is a craze there. But, led by "environmentalists," Chiba Prefecture has prohibited new golf courses from using any pesticides — period — and is seeking the cooperation of existing courses in not using these chemicals.

At last count, two cities in other prefectures are following this guideline, six prefectures (like our states) have banned or sharply restricted the development of new courses, and scores of municipalities have enacted new rules to ban or limit new construction.

The Big Scare is on. And a Big Chilling golf course development could be the result in Japan. Big Deal, you say? Yes.

What I am saying is that with this



Leslie

smaller world we live in, a fad no longer jumps from state to state; it jumps from country to country. And we shouldn't be

so proud as to think that all fads, trends or rages need begin in America and fly abroad. A fad nowadays can just as easily start in a foreign country and, before we know it, take up residence in our backyard.

Golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. has urged further scientific research to persuade lawmakers not to overreact.

Referring to the ban in Chiba Prefecture, Jones said, "That kind of reactive solution is not what we want to see over here."

The industry in the United States should be prepared before any over-reactive legislation is proposed on this shore. Proving itself a sound caretaker of God's earth, it should fully and aggressively — with foresight and with money — undertake research to find environmentally safe ways to maintain healthy turf.

It should continue efforts to prove or disprove, once and for all, what effects pesticides, fertilizers et al have on water supplies.

It should financially support the USGA Green Section's upgraded effort to plug the gaps in the body of research regarding the effect of chemical use on the environment.

It should undertake to educate golfers that grass does not have to be a bountiful-Irish-green to be healthy.

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