

ASGCA exclusive — and rightfully so

Managing Editor Mark Leslie and I had the distinct privilege of being invited to the annual spring meeting of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at Pebble Beach. If you think this group may be rather exclusive — it is. The 108 members have met strict criteria to be invited and, in fact, one of the more famous members is still only an associate member at this time — Jack Nicklaus. Nicklaus attended the meeting and played with Pete Dye, Robert Trent Jones Jr. and honoree John Zoller.

I had the honor and pleasure of meeting Robert Trent Jones Sr., as well as outgoing President Robert Trent Jones Jr. I'd like to pass along



Charles E. von Brecht
my best wishes to incoming president Dan Maples.

As you may have guessed, the meeting schedule included golf following morning meetings. It was my first opportunity to play Spanish Bay, which was designed by Bobby Jones, Sandy Tatum and Tom Watson. The layout of Spanish Bay is truly unique. The fairways and roughs are close to what you'll find at the Scottish links — and this beautiful setting on the Pacific is truly a Scottish links setting. The golf was enjoyable, as were the seminars I attended, and the members could not have been more cordial.

More information is available on the ASGCA from Executive Director Paul Fullmer at 312-372-7090.

This issue of *Golf Course News* marks another milestone in our short history. Business Publications Audit (BPA) will be reviewing our circulation figures from the May issue and will make the figures available in an audit statement. This BPA audit is then made available to advertisers and advertising agencies to ensure their advertising dollars are being directed to their target audience. If you have not done so, please fill out the reader reply card which appears in this issue and send it in to receive your monthly *Golf Course News*.

Sincerely,
Charles E. von Brecht
publisher

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Publisher
Charles E. von Brecht

Editorial Director
Brook Taliaferro

Managing Editor
Mark A. Leslie

Associate Editor
Peter Blais

Contributing Editor
Vern Putney

Editorial Adviser
James McLoughlin

Traffic Manager
Joline A. Violette

Circulation Manager
Tori Turpin

Editorial Office
Golf Course News
PO Box 997
38 Lafayette Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096
(207) 846-0600

Advertising Office
National Sales:
Charles E. von Brecht

Marketplace Sales:
Simone M. Lewis

Golf Course News
7901 Fourth St. North
Suite 311
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(813) 576-7077

West Coast Sales
James G. Elliott Co.
714 W. Olympic Blvd.
Suite 1120
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 746-8800

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COMMENT

Cynics not needed

BY MARK LESLIE

Some people will work overtime without pay in judging others. And a lot of that judging has been done against the golf industry — by people acting as the protectors of the forests of Vermont, the wetlands of New Jersey, the shores of California, the wild ducks of Michigan, and whatever happens to be in their backyard.

Until recent years, the golf industry basically sat by without ammunition to disprove claims that golf course fertilizers and chemicals pollute ground water.

But now, with the initiative of the United States Golf Association Green Section and supporting organizations, the industry may soon be able to respond in a positive way.

With the finished report from Spectrum Research Inc. showing the gaps in research on the effects of chemicals, the USGA will soon commission further study on the un-

answered questions.

Representatives of every segment of the golf industry are echoing the sentiment: "All we want is the truth — pro or con." Perhaps that is because they feel confident following the Cape Cod Study and Dr. Tom Watschke's study on runoff pollution.

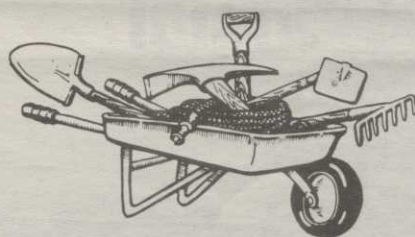
If the truth proves that turf removes the pollutants naturally, then superintendents, architects, builders and developers can go forward armed with that finding.

If the truth proves harm is done, then tough decisions lie ahead.

Author and editor H.L. Mencken once said: "A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin."

Let's hope cynics on both sides of this issue lose that trait before the answers come in. Let us all just work together and seek the truth — wherever that leads us.

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