

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

Oregon field burning compromise means change

Seed growers, citizens and state legislators arrive at a compromise in long controversy 18

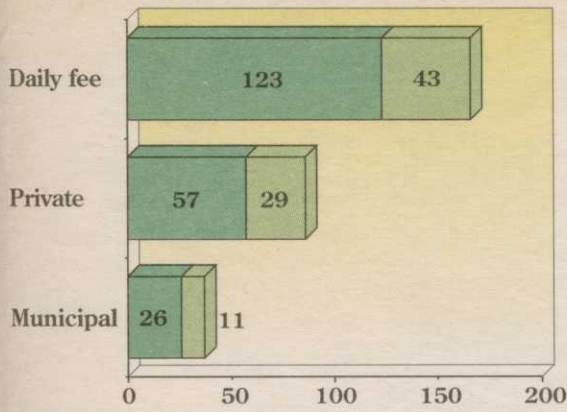
Fire ants targeted

Industry researchers are responding to the growing problem attacking the South. 32-33

Forward to the past

From architects to pros and everyday players, people want a return to 'traditional' course design. 36

Golf course openings in 1990



COURSE MAINTENANCE

- Oil leak detector making worldwide impact 22
- Communications the key in U.S. or Japan 22
- Dick Schmidt tackles another challenge 24

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- TPC designs face 'sweeping changes' 30
- Snead, Graves combine talents in new firm 30
- Florida, California lead course construction 34

COURSE MANAGEMENT

- Staubach says team building crucial to success ... 42
- Older workers claiming mistreatment 42
- L.T. Walden heads Golf Car Manufacturers 45

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

- CMAA exhibitors generally optimistic 48
- Gardner named executive VP at LESCO 48
- Hunter Industries honors distributors 49



Forward to the past
Carnival time in golf course design is an era of the past, not future, many say.
Page 36

Pearce eyes change from within

By Peter Blais

With private club membership practices coming under increasing scrutiny by the public and media, newly elected Club Manager Association of America President Jim Pearce is a firm believer in change from within.

"I've seen clubs change on their own and do away with discriminatory prac-

tices. I don't know of anyone who manages a club that discriminates in the sense of the old term," Pearce said during last month's CMAA Annual Conference and Exposition in Dallas.

"Perhaps there is a lot of discrimination out there. But I am not aware of it in the clubs I have been privileged to manage because they've taken care of

those things. It's taken some time. But I think it's wrong to have to be legislated to change things when it's the member who is footing the bill and not the government."

Pearce was club manager of the Binghamton (N.Y.) Club in the mid-1950s when the board of directors voted

Continued on page 42

Aerator patent not enforceable

By Peter Blais

A federal judge has ruled the patent on a pond aeration device used on golf courses is unenforceable because the manufacturer obtained it improperly.

U.S. District Judge Donald Alsop ruled Feb. 20 that Daniel Durda, chairman and chief executive officer of Aeration Industries Inc. of Chaska, Minn., altered docu-

Continued on page 50

USGA specs under fire, face change

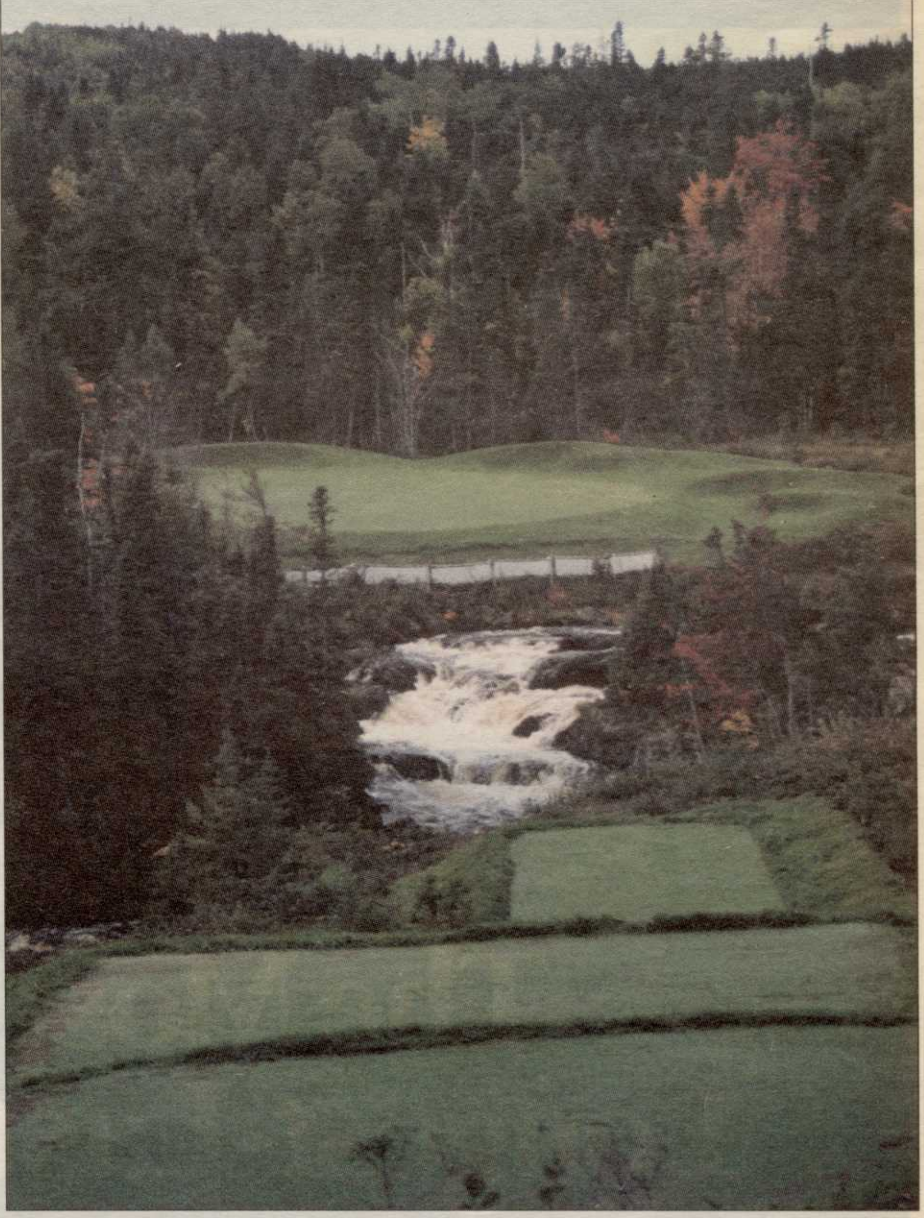
By Kit Bradshaw

The heat is on for change to the United States Golf Association's specifications for greens construction, which have been reduced to pamphlet size since the original one-inch-thick document.

Depending on the source, these specifications, an industry-wide standard for three decades:

- Are not based on sound scientific rationales.
- Have a problem in the

Continued on page 10



The 175-yard 8th hole at the Doug Carrick-designed Twin Rivers Golf Course spans a salmon river in Terra Nova National Park, Newfoundland. For more information on this course and others in North America, see pages 28-31.

Idaho legislators nix field burning bill

By Bob Spiwak

BOISE, Idaho — The state Legislature on March 6 quashed a bill to limit the burning of turfgrass fields in Idaho, which produces tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass for the nation.

Burning has proved the most cost-effective method

of controlling disease and pests in the fields, but has been opposed by environmentalists who decry the black smoke from the



fires every fall. The opposition came to a head in 1988 when a wind-shift pushed the smoke from a burning field across a major highway in Oregon, causing a 37-car collision and fatally injuring seven persons.

Prior to the Legislature's
Continued on page 19

Asia's first international golf show slated for April 11-14

SINGAPORE, China—Golf Asia '91, billed as the first international golf show in that region, will be held April 11-14 at the World Trade Centre here.

More than 200 exhibitors from golf merchandise manufacturers to course equipment, architects, resorts, golf accessories and apparel industries have confirmed participation.

Special events will include: Asia-Pacific Golf Summit Conference, Asian Clubs Golf Classic Competition, and Queen of Golf Asia Pageant.

Golf Asia will offer a number of demonstrations and a golf shop.

An estimated \$10 billion to \$15 billion will be invested in new golf course construction in the Asia-Pacific region over the next 10 years. The effect on fluctuations in the economy and on leisure industries in general will be explored, as will the forces impacting the golf industry growth in the 1990s.

There will be a hard look at how environmental issues are affecting both the development of new courses and the future of existing

courses.

Other topics will include an examination of key issues impacting golf course development in the Asia-Pacific region during the 1990s and beyond along with new golf course construction and how quickly and effectively it can be stimulated, particularly in the leisure sector.

Structures of golf club management organization, membership programs and administration, and catering for the increase in players on existing courses will be explored, as well as a superintendent's perspective on golf course manage-

ment, including club organization, employee motivation, budgeting and planning.

The latest developments in turf maintenance and modern developments in irrigation will be examined.

Speakers will include pro golfer Larry Nelson, former PGA Championship and U.S. Open winner; Shelby Futch, teaching editor for Golf Magazine USA; golf course architects Robin Nelson, Perry Dye and Neil Noble; and Tim Bowyer, Ph. D, president of Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc.

Patent

Continued from page 1

ments and failed to disclose material information to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, making Aeration Industries' "Flow Linkage" patent unenforceable.

Aeration manufactures the Aire-O₂ horizontal aerator marketed by The Toro Co.

Aeration Industries filed a patent infringement lawsuit in November 1989 against Aeromix Systems, Inc., a Minneapolis company started by former employee Peter Gross.

Aeromix immediately filed several countersuits claiming the patent was invalid and that Aeration violated antitrust and false advertising laws.

The judge dismissed all suits brought by Aeration Industries against Aeromix.

The ruling allows Aeromix to petition the court to recover hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees, Gross said. It also opens the door for Aeromix to press its other suits against Aeration Industries. The suits could seek millions of dollars in damages, he said.

Aeromix customers include Airlake Aerators of Lakeville, Minn. Airlake markets solely to golf courses and competes with Toro.

"Obviously we're quite pleased," said Airlake President Stephen Brown, who claimed Aeration's lawsuit and threatened legal action against purchasers of Airlake equipment cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"This takes the focus off the side issues and puts it on the equipment, where it should have been all along," added Brown, like Gross a former Aeration employee. "Now customers can just concentrate on what the products are capable of doing and who has the best price."

Durda said he was surprised at the decision and may appeal. He also labeled as "ridiculous" claims that he threatened potential Airlake customers with lawsuits.

"We will be caucusing with our attorneys to look at our opportunities for an appeal. I believe we have a month to do so. We never felt our patent rights were fully examined in this case," Durda said.

Durda said the ruling has had no impact on Aeration's business or its relationship with Toro.

A spokesman for Toro's legal department refused comment.

"I've requested Toro remove references to their patented Flow Linkage system from their literature," Brown said. "We certainly aren't accusing Toro of anything."

The Aire-O₂ is a surface-mounted aerator that injects air under the water's surface, creating a horizontal circulation throughout the pond that helps control algae growth and offensive odors.

Wastewater treatment and aquaculture firms are the major buyers of horizontal aerators. The golf market is a growing segment, however, said Brown.

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