

# News coverage to be expanded in '92

It's hard to believe that summer is half over and we're working on fall issues and planning for 1992. Just the other day, registration forms for the GCSAA showed up! In case you haven't received yours, dates are Feb. 10-17, 1992, in New Orleans, La.

I recently met with our editors to plan our editorial features for 1992. I can assure you Golf Course News will expand our editorial coverage into some exciting new areas. The editorial features appear monthly and I will share the upcoming

schedule as soon as it is finalized.

Since my last column appeared, I've had some interesting travel, meeting new business leaders along the way. A good part of the time was spent in the Northwest at two field day events. (Our editorial staff cover a few of those events on page 47.)



Charles von Brecht

This was my first full exposure to these educational and fun events. Both events I attended at Jacklin Seed and Turf-Seed were well attended and good learning experiences.

A highlight of Jacklin's field day was Dr. Eliot Roberts' eloquent oration on turfgrass. The gist of the talk was comparing the environmental stability of grasses to trees. As Dr. Roberts suggests, "turf grasses indeed do stand tall among the trees." If you have not heard or read of Dr. Roberts' research, you

should contact him at the Lawn Institute in Pleasant Hill, Tenn.

No doubt, the highlight at Turf-Seed was Dr. Bill Meier. Through a steady rain, Bill conducted a tour through acres of grass as though the sun were shining brightly. I look forward to attending these events again next year.

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Recently, I've had a couple of letters in response to items in this column. Please call or write if you have any comments, questions or criticisms.

## COMMENT

# 'Oneself' gives way to 'others' at two facilities

By Mark Leslie

At a time when "oneself" is often one's favorite person...

At a time when "self-serve" has replaced "a helping hand"...

At a time when the popular magazine of the day has evolved from the '50s' Look to the '60s' Life, '70s' People, '80s' Us to today's Self...

At a time when newspapers are filled with stories of people pushing their own agendas at any cost — lying and terrorism notwithstanding...

At a time like this, it is refreshing to see the selflessness of some in the golf industry, the community in Akron, Ohio, and of one lady in Arkansas.

Edwin Shaw Hospital in Akron opens a golf facility for the physically challenged on Aug. 21 after three years

of planning.

Retired Navy nurse Shirlee Hicks on Sept. 1 will then open Golf for Life, a practice facility in Berryville, Ark., for people undergoing physical rehabilitation.

The two projects are the first in the country built for the physically challenged individual.

Ms. Hicks, who just this year started a golf program for the deaf for the LPGA in California, says her Arkansas creation targets a person's body, soul and spirit.



Mark Leslie

She and the therapists and officials at Edwin Shaw agree a handicapped person who can play the game has improved self-esteem.

Indeed, the spirits of all involved in these two projects should measure higher on the Richter scale of satisfaction.

One person gratified by the two efforts is Bob Wilson, executive director of the National Amputee Golf Association. He called the two efforts "pioneering" and said he was anxious to see their playability and the response of the public.

Wilson conducts clinics for the handicapped around the country and finds a group of golfing hopefuls/physically challenged wherever he goes.

Accolades in this scenario should go to Ms. Hicks, who has gone the distance on her own — no outside financial backing and no partners. They should also go to the many who helped Edwin Shaw Hospital complete a project that includes a three-hole course and a masterful 15-acre practice range, both of which can be used by the general public when handicapped people are not booked.

Helpers from the golf industry include Wadsworth Construction Co., the builders; Hurdzan Design Group, the course architect; LESCO, Inc. and Commercial Pump, who donated their products. They donated everything that was needed — giving of themselves for others.

That's unique in this year 1991.

## GUEST COMMENTARY

# Truth doesn't get in the way of 'toxoterrorists'

(Editor's note: A report substantiating information put forward in this commentary accompanies on pages 13-14)

By Tim Hiers

When the Trojan horse was wheeled inside the fortified walls of Troy, the inhabitants of Troy perceived it as a gift. It was a tragic misperception that cost them their freedom and their lives.

Today, perception plays a key role in society's decision-making. We are simply too busy (or think we are) to seek out the facts. Decision-making by perception makes our society vulnerable to those who want to promote their own agenda by manipulating perceptions.

Many Americans perceive that pesticides are a great cause of cancer and death in this country. Yet science (without politics) is telling us something vastly different. The average life span in the United States is approaching 76, while in the year 1900 it was 47.

Are we living longer because we eat more organic food? No, we ate more organic food 91 years ago. Today it's Pizza Hut and MacDonald's.

Is it because we exercise more? No. Could you imagine a farmer after 10 hours plowing fields need-

ing to go to a health club for exercise some nine decades ago?

I believe technology, including medicine, and properly used pesticides are the primary reasons Americans are living longer. Our society, especially a good majority of those under the age of 50, takes many things for granted.

American journalist Harry Golden once commented: "The arrogance of the young is a direct result of not having known enough consequences. The turkey that every day greedily approaches the farmer who tosses him grain is not wrong. It is just that no one ever told him about Thanksgiving."

If we were to severely reduce or eliminate pesticides, our future Thanksgivings might be greeted by malaria, yellow fever or starvation due to crop failures.

Unfortunately, we have developed a dangerous habit of criticizing and obstructing the very tools that have actually improved the environment and our quality of life.

An old Spanish proverb succinctly states the danger of obstruction:



Tim Hiers

"Habits are first cobwebs and then cables."

Samuel Johnson took it a step further, saying, "The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken."

How did we get into this habit of worrying about pesticides while America is being ravaged by drug abuse, child abuse, poor education, crime, alcohol, etc.?

Strong evidence and documentation exist that reveal almost invisible, small, well-organized, effective and powerful ideological groups who have orchestrated and perpetuated this negative pesticide perception on the American people.

Originally, this group consisted of remnants of the 1960s movement, Marxist/socialist college professors, the media and other anti-capitalistic and anti-Western radical factions. Today, this real cancer permeates some key government positions, a large number of our university students and is even being promoted in our lower grade systems. (Read Herbert London's "Why Are They Lying to Our Children?")

These subversive groups are willing to use any device — whether it be deception, coercion, manipulation or lying — to achieve their

agenda.

For lack of better definition, I will refer to them as pseudo-environmentalists, or p.e.'s.

Peter Meadows, of Australia, has dubbed them "toxoterrorists."

They attempt (and have been successful at large) to appear to be environmentalists, but in reality they represent America's modern-day Trojan horse.

Their goals and agenda are fairly simple: Use the environmental movement as a hidden tool to promote socialism or Marxism and to bring capitalism down through the system.

Let me clarify, this does not refer to all environmentalists — only those with ulterior motives.

It has been said: "The most dangerous untruths are truths moderately distorted." This is where the p.e.'s excel.

By using fear, distorted reports and lack of public knowledge, they can fool our government and its agencies into making counter-productive decisions. These same p.e.'s publicly renounce big government and its intervention in our lives while supporting legislation to increase the size of government and its control of private industry.

I believe there are six key steps

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Circulation Manager, Golf Course News, P.O. Box 1347, Elmhurst, IL 61026-8347.