

Briefs



GRUB ATTACK RECALLED

Ringer Corp. has recalled its Grub Attack product which employs *Bacillus popilliae* (milky spore disease) and is used to control Japanese beetle grubs.

Grub Attack is marketed only in the Northeast and is the only product sold by Ringer which uses *Bacillus popilliae*.

Tests of the Grub Attack product manufactured under subcontract for the 1991 season indicate it may not perform to Ringer's standards for consistency and effectiveness.

According to company officer Rob Ringer, Ringer Corp. intends to correct the problem and will re-release Grub Attack as soon as testing demonstrates consistently effective results.

The product does not present a health or environmental risk.

GCSAA DONATES \$50,000

Research into environmentally beneficial turfgrasses has received \$50,000 in grants from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The grants to the U.S. Golf Association will help fund the work of the USGA/GCSAA Turfgrass Research Committee in the coming year.

"We're extremely pleased to once again offer our financial support to the committee," said GCSAA President Stephen G. Cadenelli. "More important than the money, however, is our pledge to take the knowledge gained from this research and disseminate it to those responsible for the management of America's golf courses."

CADMIUM REVIEW TERMINATED

The Environmental Protection Agency has terminated a special review on the fungicide cadmium chloride (Caddy, Liquid Cadmium Turf Fungicide) due to the voluntary cancellation of the only remaining cadmium chloride pesticide registration by its producer, W.A. Cleary Corp.

According to EPA Fact Sheet #220, "... no cadmium chloride product may be sold, distributed or released for shipment by the registrant after July 31, and no cadmium chloride product may be sold or distributed by a retailer, dealer or any person after Dec. 31.

Golf courses or endusers may not obtain or take possession of cadmium chloride product after Dec. 31. Supplies in their possession as of Dec. 31 may be used until exhausted.

ATRAZINE-LADEN FERTILIZER DEADLY

LAKE CITY, Minn. — Lake City Country Club fairways suffered extensive damage when a fertilizer mistakenly containing atrazine was applied.

About 47,000 square yards of turfgrass were killed from an application April 27. Fertilizer supplier Farmers Elevator Co.'s insurance will pay to repair the damage, estimated at up to \$200,000, said company manager Greg Schwanbeck.

Course superintendent Cliff Reynolds said: "It's never a good feeling, seeing a road grader going up the middle of a fairway pulling sod away."

Audubon, courses team up to save wildlife

More than 100 courses already signed onto program

By Mark Leslie and Kit Bradshaw

Golf courses and an Audubon Society wildlife sanctuary program "are a perfect match," according to an environmental specialist with the U.S. Golf Association.

By July, more than 100 courses in 26 states had shown interest in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, administered by the New York Audubon Society and USGA.

Nancy Sadlon, the USGA ecologist hired for the project, said she is overjoyed by the response of superintendents across the country.

"I am continually finding that many golf courses are already way in advance," she said. "They have been doing conservation practices. Or they have one element of the environment they are interested in. For instance, they have put up their wood duck boxes, or worked very hard to keep their purple martin populations.

"It's amazing to find so many who have already participated in this fashion. It's re-



A whitetail deer and her fawn walk the fairway at Whitefish Lake Golf Course in Whitefish, Mont.

Photo courtesy of Dave Wedum

freshing."

Superintendent William Black, who has signed his Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., on to the program, said, "A lot of us have been doing a lot of these

programs for years anyhow."

Since 1981, Congressional has had a program that has greatly increased the Eastern bluebird population on the course. "People

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Variety is the spice of nature at John's Island West.

Wildlife at refuge at John's Island West

By Kit Bradshaw

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Otters play in its waterways. Armadillos, turtles and tortoises sun themselves there. Mockingbirds, cardinals and osprey nest in its trees. No, it's not Walt Disney World or some man-made zoo. It's John's Island West, which serves as a prime example of a golf course's sensitive use of land.

"When we built John's Island West, we wanted to abide by all the rules and regulations. But, most importantly, we wanted to protect the environment and do it on a

positive basis," said architect Tom Fazio.

The result, according to golf course manager Tim Hiers, is that one scientist even planted an endangered species at John's Island West so that it would be assured of being preserved.

All agree the parcel of land was spectacular to begin with.

John Fitzpatrick, executive director of the Archbold Biological Station near Lake Placid, describes the land as "one of the rarest habitats in North America. Every square meter is precious to wildlife. It has a

fairly large number of endangered species, and it is now a permanent habitat preserve that also provides recreation and beauty... It is the best example of bringing these two goals together."

One factor that makes this course unique in Florida is that no residences surround it. Fazio said that because of this, "we were able to leave much of the natural vegetation and fit the golf holes into the original contours."

As a result of the careful construction,

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Drought information network established in California

After being drought-parched for more than five years, California is fighting back with a new way to get the latest word on the state's water supply.

A computer system called Advanced Technology Information Network (ATI-Net) lets users tap into comprehensive drought information gleaned by the California Department of Water Resources.

According to ATI-Net General Manager Jeff Ennen, those with menu-driven information systems, modems and communications software can call in through a phone line to ATI's Fresno-based computer.

"It's fairly straightforward," Ennen said of the system, which walks users through a variety of information options like "press letter A for agricultural news."

Ennen said the drought information maintained by ATI-Net includes a listing of California water districts and the population bases supported by those districts; as well as updated general drought information; a county-by-county look at the drought; and government assistance programs available to help companies hurt by the economic impact of the drought.

While most of the aid programs were originally set up to help agricultural enterprises

such as farms, Ennen suggested that golf course superintendents review the listings, to see if any aid programs would apply to the golf industry.

Such aid could include grants, loans, cost sharing, or technical assistance.

ATI-Net also includes an analysis of state water supplies by region, assessing both the current and potential impact of the drought on those water supplies. A list of publications that provide drought information is also available to ATI-Net users, Ennen said.

For more information on ATI-Net call 209-278-4872.

Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Program catches on

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had always said the Eastern bluebird is fragile and can't compete in an environment with pesticides. In fact, we are increasing our population by providing nesting houses for them," Black said.

Black and his crew built 10 bluebird houses the first year. It was such a success that they have kept adding houses until they now have 75 along the edge of the fairways.

At Tam O'Shanter Public Golf Course in Canton, Ohio, President Chuck Bennell said the program is "a wonderful idea" he hopes will catch on nationwide.

"It's going to require that operators see it as something that's interesting to do and fun to do, and not a hassle," he said. "Most people I know in the golf business are proud of the beauty of their course. This is a way to share that beauty with people who may not be golfers, but who might come out to the property and help identify what wildlife we have."

AUDUBON-USGA PARTNERSHIP

Ron Dodson, president of the New York Audubon Society, had instituted sanctuary programs with corporate and school landholders when he met with USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow and decided to get involved with golf courses.

"We view all open space as important to wildlife," Dodson said, "and through this program we are able to work in a positive way with managers and golf course superintendents to have courses be part of the sanctuary system."

Spurred by its overall environmental program, the USGA has fully backed the effort. It added Sadlon to its staff and contributed \$30,000 to the New York Audubon to produce a brochure and support Dodson's time and travels working on the project.

Interested superintendents should contact the Audubon Society in Selkirk, N.Y., telephone 518-767-9051. They will be asked to register for \$100, for which they will receive a resource inventory handbook and one-year subscription to *Field Notes*, the Cooperative Sanctuary newsletter.

After they complete the questionnaire and resource inventory handbook, the Audubon prepares a report based on this information. The report suggests various wildlife habitat enhancement projects and resource conservation programs, along with fact sheets that provide details of the projects.

If a course follows through, it becomes a "certified cooperative sanctuary."

Asked the incentives for a superintendent to get involved in the program, Sadlon said: "It helps them manage their course the way they'd like to. It helps them express some of their environmental concerns, to describe to the people in power the importance of certain management techniques, such as integrated pest

management and water conservation.

"I do think it is helpful in becoming certified to being able to tell your local municipality that you have become a certified cooperative sanctuary. That shows, from an image standpoint, that you have taken action to be environmentally conscious."

Black said: "It's a great idea, a good way for golfing people to show we do mean well... The majority of superintendents and people in the golf course business are environ-

mentally in tune and are doing things to help wildlife. We don't go spreading a lot of poisons around. We try to be very careful."

Of Congressional CC's 500 acres, only five acres of greens and tees and 50 acres of fairways are intensively maintained, he said. "Yet people point their finger at golf courses and say, 'All they do is pollute the environment.' That's not the case."

Bennell agreed. Mentioning a North Carolina golf course where the scorecard is a bird watcher's

guide to the course, he said: "When I found out about the Audubon program ... it occurred that, first, it's fun to watch the birds and enjoy the wildlife and flowers when you're out on a course; and, second, the more we could attract birds and other wildlife to the course, the more the customers are likely to recognize it is a safe, as well as a beautiful, place to be. If you've got lots of birds and squirrels running around, it reinforces that you are being responsible as far as what you're spraying or fertilizing with."

Bennell said joining the sanctuary program will "enable us to plug into something very good for us technically and from a public relations standpoint. And it will enable us to make friends with environmentalists long before we would need them to know we are the good guys when there is a crisis somewhere..."

"My own feeling is the political aspects of environmental responsibility are going to be as important as the technical aspects. You not only have to do the right thing, you

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at more than 100 courses across the country

have to be **known** to do the right thing.

"All of this comes together with the Audubon program, where we are able to get very good advice from a naturalist organization about how to use the areas of the course that are out of play for wildlife habitat."

THE SPECIFICS

Sadlon, who holds a landscape architecture degree from Rutgers University and has continued advanced studies in environmental

sciences with a specialty in wetlands, said wildlife enhancement projects are broken into the four important elements: Cover, water, food and space.

• Cover could be a simple nest box providing a place for shelter and breeding. "We advise concerning whatever species is there," Sadlon said. "Some wildlife is more adaptable to an open environment; others, like the woodpecker, need a wooded area. We give superintendents specifics, like the dimensions, material and size of nesting boxes."

• A food enhancement project "might incorporate planting shrubs or other plant material that provides a food source. Sometimes trees are a seed source. Sometimes grasses. Berry-producing shrubs might also double as a cover enhancement project," she said.

"You could also start a bird seed-feeding program... which brings wildlife closer to the golfer, and that is one of the goals — for the golfer to understand who also uses their course."

• Water is usually tied in with the

irrigation pond or water feature of the golf course, Sadlon said. "We encourage that some edge of that pond be left in a natural state that is more beneficial to the two other elements important to wildlife — food and cover," she said. "You can have your water feature and manicure it close to the edge on half the pond; but we encourage the other half be left natural."

• Golf courses are a natural to fulfill the space requirement for animals. "Courses have space available, quite a bit of it out of play.

We encourage that space be left as natural as possible instead of being manicured. We encourage natural vegetation be left," Sadlon said.

She added that flora and fauna are also part of the program. If a course contains a threatened species, Sadlon or Dodson tells the superintendent what its cultural habits are so they can provide for it.

Dodson said that in addition to internal recommendations, the Audubon Society keeps courses updated on ways to educate the public about courses.

"We recommend the courses become involved with the local citizens' groups, with the Girl and Boy Scouts — by having them build the bird boxes, for example — and with the media," he said. "One of our goals over time is to enhance the image of golf courses as important areas for wildlife."

The 26 states that had at least one golf course sign onto the program by July are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington.

Greg Graham

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weather. At this point last year our greens were already transitioned. We had 12 days (last winter) in a row with a high temperature around 27 degrees and a low about 12. The greens were frozen solid."

Graham said the course suffered moderate damage, with three greens having to be re-done.

Environmentally, Desert Inn has experienced little problem. University of Nevada at Las Vegas researchers drilled three 50-foot wells at the course and found no chemical contamination.

"We don't use a lot of pesticides or insecticides anywhere but on the greens. I'm not on a preventative program at all. I pay attention to the conditions and when I need it I use it," he said.

The desert heat requires Graham's crew to work from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. That means mowing occurs while the course is most heavily played. Delaying mowing until mid-afternoon would interfere less with play but expose workers to 110-plus degree temperatures and require more overtime pay.

"You don't have the flexibility of changing schedules you would on a normal golf course because the union requires overtime. It increases the cost of business because you need a little more equipment and a few more people. And there's a lot of hand work here on things like flower beds. But the hotel wants us to keep them up that way. That requires more people. We have 23 people on an 18-hole golf course. A normal course would take 15 to 18."

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