

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

Continued on page 18



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,

Continued on page 21

## 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.



# California

Continued from page 20

permanent reduction in water use over the next few years, Harbison predicted.

Attaining that goal will require incentives, although some water districts are already willing to shut off water to landscapers completely or on a percentage basis.

Percentage-based reductions are a very unfair way of rationing because the people who have conscientiously conserved over the years are penalized more severely than those who have always wasted water and will now be allotted a more reasonable amount, Harbison said.

Hopefully, most water districts will begin allocating water on a per-capita basis, Harbison said. Water allotments should be determined on an area's evapotranspiration rate and the area a landscaper is covering, he added.

Harbison favors an allotment method giving a landscaper a certain amount of water that he can use as he sees fit.

Before such a system gains statewide acceptance, the landscape industry will likely see peak-season pricing, with higher prices in summer than winter; graduated block water rates, with a big user paying more per unit than a small user; maintenance contracts, with landscapers rewarded for saving water and punished for wasting it; incentives to replace thirstier cool-season grasses; plantings of more desert-type landscapes; and, installation of efficient irrigation systems.

# John's Island West provides safe harbor

Continued from page 14

Archbold Biological Station is using John's Island West as a permanent habitat preserve to help save the endangered Lakela's Mint.

Hiers is also cataloging the plants on the course, including an unusually large number of sand pines.

Hiers said the course is working in other ways to help the environment.

"I would say there is a better bird population, with more variety of birds, now than there was before construction," Hiers said. "We have several migratory birds who stop here, and we have sandhill cranes, wood storks, wood ibis, both the great white and great blue herons, scrub jays, mockingbirds, brown thrashers, cardinals and osprey.

"The wood stork and the sandhill crane are getting to be pretty rare in Florida, but we have them at John's Island West.

"Also," Hiers said, "we've stocked the lake with 4,000 bass and brim and they are doing just great. With no one fishing in the lakes, their only enemies are the birds and the otters.

"The otters are now here because we have created the lakes which are an attractive habitat — stocked with fish — for them," he said. "And we have opossums, bobcats, marsh and cottontail rabbits, gopher tortoises, armadillos, box turtles, and even, occasionally, a piney ridge boar. There are all kinds of snakes here, from the endangered indigo snake to the Eastern diamondback and pigmy rattlesnake to the water snakes, coral snakes and rat snakes."

*'We view all open space as important to wildlife.'*

— Ron Dodson

New York Audubon Society

Hiers noted that creation of the course provided a secondary benefit to the environment that might not be apparent.

"A lot of people don't realize that, while a golf course might remove trees, there are always trees added to the course as well," he said. And, the majestic trees that are vulnerable to lightning in south Florida are now protected (with cabled lightning protection), where they weren't protected when they were growing in the wild.

The New York Audubon Society recognized the importance of golf courses to wildlife and has helped the U.S. Golf Association initiate a nationwide cooperative wildlife sanctuary program.

"We view all open space as important to wildlife," New York Audubon Society President Ron Dodson said, "and through this program we are able to work with managers and golf course superintendents to have golf courses be part of the sanctuary system."

John's Island West is one of the courses working with the Audubon Society in the fledgling program. Hiers said through the Audubon Society and Archbold Biological Station, his course's value as a wildlife area is being enhanced. And he thinks it's important for the public to become more educated

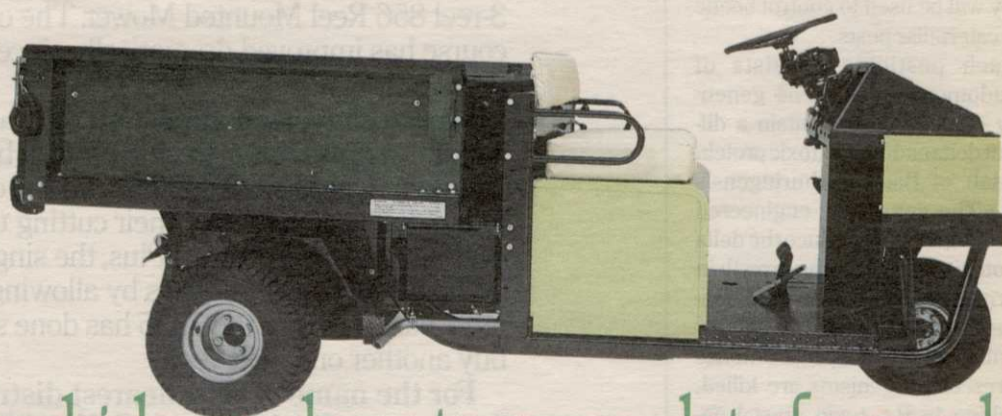
on the positive role of a golf course.

"In several areas of the country, specifically Westchester County, N.Y., they have proven that, for every gallon of water a course uses, it recharges seven gallons to the aquifer. A typical acre of golf course turf in Florida returns 650,000 gallons of water to the aquifer a year. I don't think the public knows this," Hiers said.

Despite evidence that suggests courses can be a partner in helping the environment, Hiers said the public's attitudes are difficult to change. He feels the change must begin with the superintendents themselves.

"The person who has the strongest vested interest in a golf course is the superintendent," he said. "The superintendent's career, his livelihood, his self-esteem ... everything is based on the condition and success of that course. Logically, it stands to reason that he is going to be the one interested in quality control, what it will take to maintain that course with a reasonable amount of money, and all the other factors considered, including the environment."

Saying golf courses should be designed to minimize the potential hazard to the environment, Hiers added that superintendents "should be involved with the courses before construction starts. They should be there when the specifications are written, so they can say, 'We don't want to irrigate this area,' and give the owner a chance to make an intelligent decision whether or not the area should have irrigation."



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