

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

The firms that run the courses, pages 41-43
Management Companies

A UNITED PUBLICATION
 VOLUME 3, NUMBER 8
 AUGUST 1991

INSIDE

Nuisance water may be godsend

University of Nevada researchers are studying ways to use untreated runoff water 3

User-friendly

EPA official urges environmentally safe golf course projects 8

'Toxo-terrorists'

Exposing fancy and unveiling fact are musts of the future for superintendents 13-14

Pesticide law

California superintendents come under restrictions of old agriculture regulations 13-14

2nd quarter 1991 course update

Type	Open			Under Construction		
	1991 YTD	1990 YTD	1990 Yr-end	1991 YTD	1990 YTD	1990 Yr-end
Daily Fee	48	—	166	340	—	301
Municipal	13	—	37	88	—	71
Private	27	—	86	189	—	184
N/A	—	—	—	3	—	4
Totals	88	82	289	620	511	560

Source: NGF

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Audubon, courses team up to save wildlife 15
 Wildlife at refuge at John's Island West 15
 Greg Graham always tournament-ready 16

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Japanese stay active in U.S. marketplace 27
 Las Vegas thrives in face of recession 27
 Monthly update: Planned, approved courses ... 36-37

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Management companies do it all 41
 Owners association gains members 41
 Kemper signs pact 41

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Bermudagrass test results released 45
 Marketing conference speakers announced 46
 Turfseed field days draw crowds 47

High Court ruling said 'scary'

By Peter Blais

The recent Supreme Court ruling freeing local governments to impose pesticide regulations that conflict with federal law could severely restrict the use of golf course chemicals, according to a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America official.

"It scares the hell out of me. It's

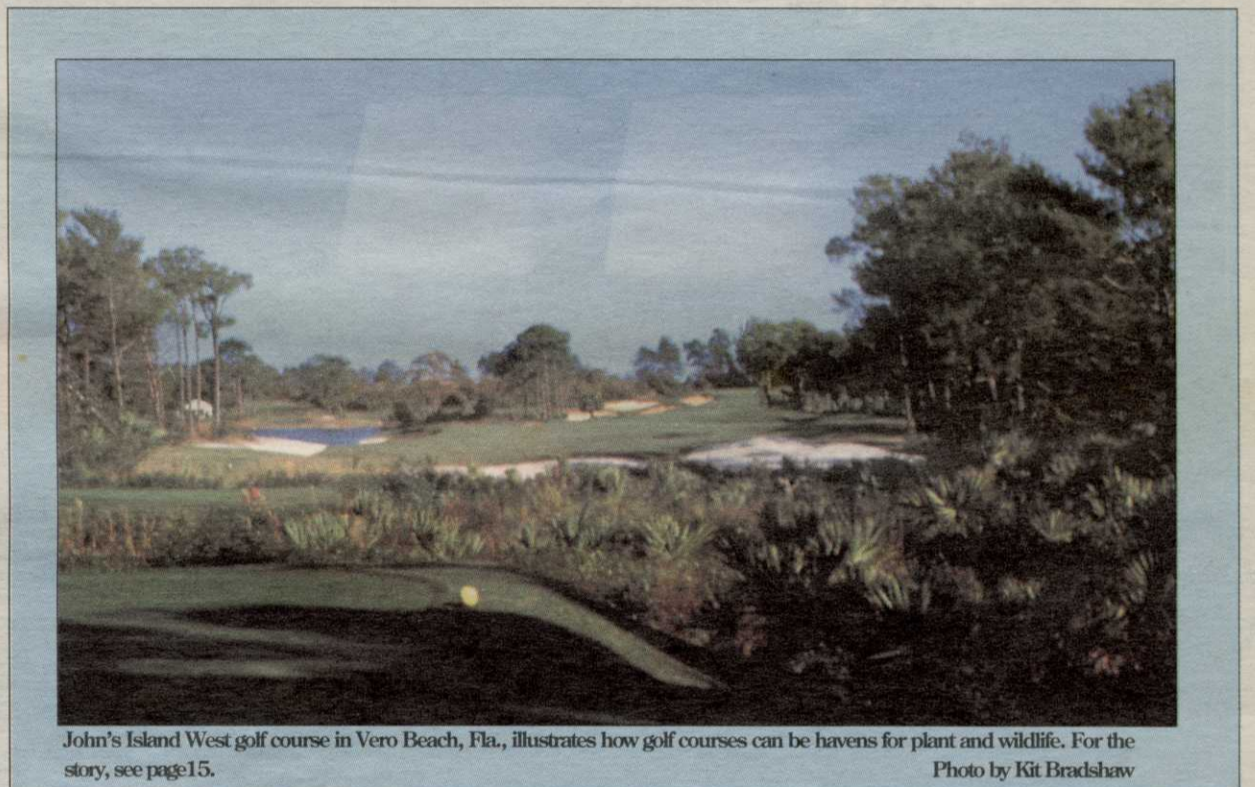
another step toward more regulations," said Charles Passios, government liaison to the GCSAA board of directors.

"It means superintendents are going to have to be more pro-active than ever, participating in the process and taking a lead role to make sure our concerns are heard when towns want to pass regulations."

In the case of the Town of Casey, Wis. v. Ralph Mortimer et al, the court ruled unanimously June 21 that the language of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act does not allow it to pre-empt locally passed regulations.

The decision overturned a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that FIFRA

Continued on page 23



John's Island West golf course in Vero Beach, Fla., illustrates how golf courses can be havens for plant and wildlife. For the story, see page 15. Photo by Kit Bradshaw

Major changes expected in revisions of wetlands laws

By Mark Leslie

Wetlands preservation regulations that have handcuffed golf course developers and created long, expensive waits for approvals are being rewritten — and loosened extensively — on two fronts.

A revision of the much-maligned federal wetlands delineation manual — used by the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection

Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Soil Conservation Service since 1989 — is under review and is said to more narrowly define what constitutes a wetland.

Further up Pennsylvania Avenue, congressmen have answered the call of voters and drafted legislation to correct deficiencies they see in the wetlands protection system.

Some conservationists are

angry. Linda Winter, director of wetlands programs for the Izaak Walton League, said a scientifically sound definition is "being thrown out and ignored for political reasons."

One EPA ecologist resigned and another asked that his name be dropped from the credits of the revision.

But others are looking forward to changes.

Continued on page 28

First facilities open for handicapped

By Mark Leslie

Two golf facilities built especially for the physically challenged will open within the next month, marking milestones for the country's millions of handicapped people.

In Akron, Ohio, Edwin Shaw Hospital is completing the first course in the country designed especially for handicapped golfers. Dedi

Continued on page 38

End of drought won't solve Calif. woes

By Peter Blais

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Water will continue to be in short supply for many years in California because of the six-year drought, increased demand from a growing population and environmen-

tal concerns, according to a Southern California water expert.

"We are going to see changes in our landscapes and maybe in our lifestyles if the shortages are severe enough and long enough,"

Coachella Valley Water District water management specialist Dave Harbison said during a recent water management seminar sponsored by the University of California, Riverside Cooperative

Continued on page 20

New solutions, sources sought for California water users

Continued from page 1

Extension.
 "We're looking at a crisis and it's not going to go away, even if it starts to rain."

THE SITUATION

The major source of water in California is ground water, Harbison said. The amount of ground water varies tremendously from area to area, so the drought situation differs markedly around the state.

Some areas have no ground water, some limited and some plentiful subsurface water. Certain coastal areas have pumped so much from the ground, salt water is infiltrating wells.

Most of California's water is in the north, but most of the state's population in the south.

That has resulted in two types of water transportation in the state. Short systems are located east of San Francisco along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, characterized by small water districts, small reservoirs and cross-valley pipelines.

The southern part of the state relies on special, long transport systems. The City of Los Angeles aqueduct from the Owen's River Valley, Metropolitan Water District aqueduct from the Colorado River and the state water project were all built at different times during this century with the goal of forever filling the water needs of Southern California. But none have solved the problem and all have even found it difficult to meet their designed

capacities.

Environmental concerns have spawned heated debate in recent years. California voters will decide the winner, Harbison said.

One new source of water is being developed. A sample came on line when a small, seawater desalination plant opened in June on Catalina Island near Los Angeles. But the cost of removing salt from ocean water is \$2,000 per acre-foot, making it affordable for household use, but impractical for irrigation.

Population growth is driving the state's seemingly insatiable thirst for water. Immigration has helped push California past 30 million people, a figure planners 30 years ago didn't predict until the year 2010. Population is growing at 700,000 people a year, requiring 100,000 more acre-feet of water annually.

"What we have is increasing demand with a stagnant or shrinking water supply," Harbison said. "It's crucial for the green industry to be pro-active to survive."

Ground water will help the industry in the short run. California will overdraft 2 million acre-feet of ground water in 1991.

"But ground water is like a bank account. If you don't put water in, eventually you can't get water out," Harbison said.

Many parts of the state, particularly the central valley, are heavily overdrafting their aquifers.

The Mojave Desert is showing surface cracking. A space shuttle landing had to be diverted away from an Edwards Air Force

Base landing strip because of cracking due to overdrafting.

"With or without drought, we're going to continue to have a shortage of water around the state. We're all going to have to learn to live with less water, personally and in landscaping," Harbison said.

Water is also going to get more expensive. Desalination and tougher Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards regarding lead and radon will push prices higher. Filtering out radon and lead will cost the state's water district's \$600 million, Harbison estimated.

Reclaimed water could be the savior of the green industry, he said. Traditionally ignored and dumped back into the ocean, effluent has just recently been looked at for irrigation in California.

The problem is most sewer collection systems are gravity-fed, meaning the water must be treated, stored and then pumped back uphill to where it is needed.

"And that's not cheap either," Harbison said. "We'll probably end up paying the same cost as domestic water in many cases because of treating, storing and pumping costs."

Developing more in-state water is unlikely because environmentalists have virtually stopped dam construction over the past 20 years, Harbison said. Half serious/half joking discussions about importing water from the Columbia River and Alaska are long-range options, but would also be costly, he added.

CHANGES AHEAD

Some basic changes are coming.

Agriculture accounts for 85 percent of the state's water use. With water less available, farmers will shift crops, leaving less pasture, alfalfa, cotton, sugar beets and other water-hungry crops, Harbison said.

Farm acreage will be reduced, taking away jobs and income and raising food prices.

Proposed changes of water transfer codes will make it easier to move water to where it is needed. Current codes make it difficult or illegal to transfer water from one region to another.

Gov. Pete Wilson is working on changes to the law that would allow areas with excess water to sell it without permanently giving up their water rights, Harbison explained.

Wilson has set up a water bank allowing people with extra water to sell it to someone who needs it.

It is expensive, compared to conventional sources, averaging \$125 per acre-foot plus transportation charges. But paying even \$200 per acre-foot is better than going out of business, Harbison said.

"The water bank is doing its job this year. But there are going to have to be some permanent changes to the law," he added.

Rural farming areas are vulnerable. But so are urban areas, especially regarding landscaping, which is viewed as an optional use. Urban areas are looking at a 30-percent

Continued on page 21

To produce the only completely proven, longest lasting, hardest working, and

cut your costs.



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 turf with more-water-thrifty warm-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

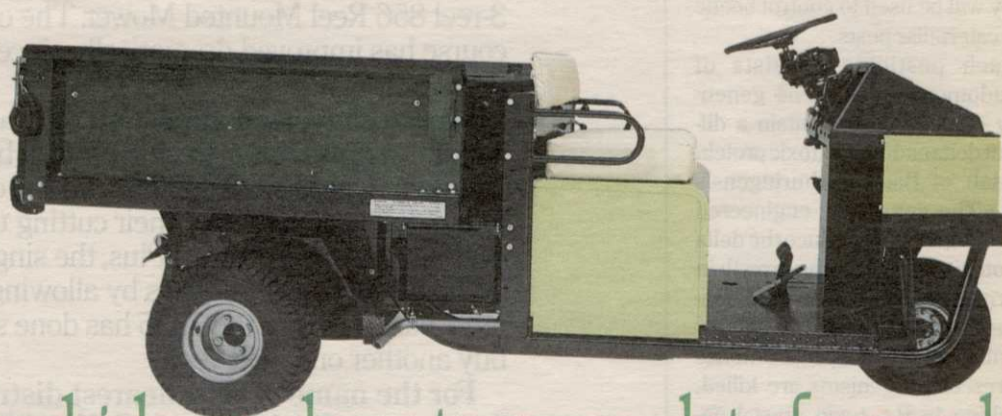
on the positive role of a golf course.

"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."



most incredibly versatile turf utility vehicle, you have to cover a lot of ground.

No one's covered as much ground over the last 30 years as Cushman®.

As a result, all the competitive vehicles combined can't cover your needs as well as a Cushman Turf-Truckster.™

The Turf-Truckster has been continually

refined and perfected to keep pace with your changing turf maintenance practices. Nothing offers you greater value or more capability. Nothing!

For all the facts, contact your Cushman dealer or call toll-free today, 1-800-228-4444. Built to Last

RANSOMES

CUSHMAN



3050 Cushman, P.O. Box 82409, Lincoln, NE 68501 ©Cushman, Inc. 1991. A Ransomes Company. All rights reserved.