

SB
433
G 4
V.3
No. 6

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 6
JUNE 1991

INSIDE

Arizona scrutinizing water replenishment district

Proposed Phoenix-area ground water project would more fairly allocate water.3

Mexico new frontier

Nicklaus, Burns follow in Joe Fingers' footsteps south of the border.12

Pebble Beach finances

Membership question will remain unanswered until July 2 at famed resort13

Pebble Beach fix-up

Turning up the heat underground saves tiny 5th green from death54

U.S. golf course supply

	Daily Fee	Municipal	Private	Unknown
Open before 1990	6,331	2,185	5,146	—
Opened in 1990	166	37	86	—
Opened 1st Qtr. '91	14	7	16	—
Under Construction	351	86	205	5
Total	6,862	2,315	5,453	5
Total of all courses when construction complete: 14,635				

Source: NGF

COURSE MAINTENANCE

First-year bentgrass test results reported16
TurfByte hobby now Patton 'modem operandi'18
Regional reports from superintendents24-25

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Alabama state employees invest in new courses ..30
Architects to release permitting document30
Courses approved and proposed32-33

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Japanese memberships provide capital36
How to win in TV interviews36
Maintenance for the club manager36

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Seed growers volunteer field-burning cuts44
Allen James heads industry's RISE44
Deere, Kohler step out to meet emissions laws45

Developer submits chem-free plan

Sherman Hollow's Truax draws fire, support over Green Life use

By Peter Blais

HUNTINGTON, Vt. — Hoping to end a six-year battle to gain state environmental approval, Sherman Hollow developers will submit plans to manage the controversial golf course without pesticides or fertilizers.

Sherman Hollow, Inc. will present details of its organic turf management program at a July 25 hearing before the same Vermont State Environmental Board that voted 2-to-1 against the project last September because of fears regarding pesti-

cide and fertilizer use.

The use of a non-toxic soil conditioner called Green Life, in conjunction with an organic program, will allow the course to be maintained without chemicals, according to Sherman Hollow President Paul Truax.

"This should remove concerns about the use of pesticides and fertilizers on the proposed golf course that, for the last six years, have prevented Sherman Hollow from receiving a golf course permit from the state of Vermont," Truax said.

Green Life has been researched and tested on several courses over the past 10 years by a Glendale, Calif., company hoping to make inroads into the environmentally conscious

Continued on page 20

Maintenance costs high all around

From staff reports

Paced by a double-digit increase in payroll taxes and employee benefits, golf course maintenance costs rose 7.8 percent at private country clubs in 1990, according to a recent survey of 250 facilities.

Last year's increase brings the national average figure to \$27,266 per hole and continues the spiraling cost of golf course maintenance, which has jumped 500 percent in the past 20 years, reported the international accounting firm Pannell Kerr Forster in its annual publication *Clubs in Town & Country*.

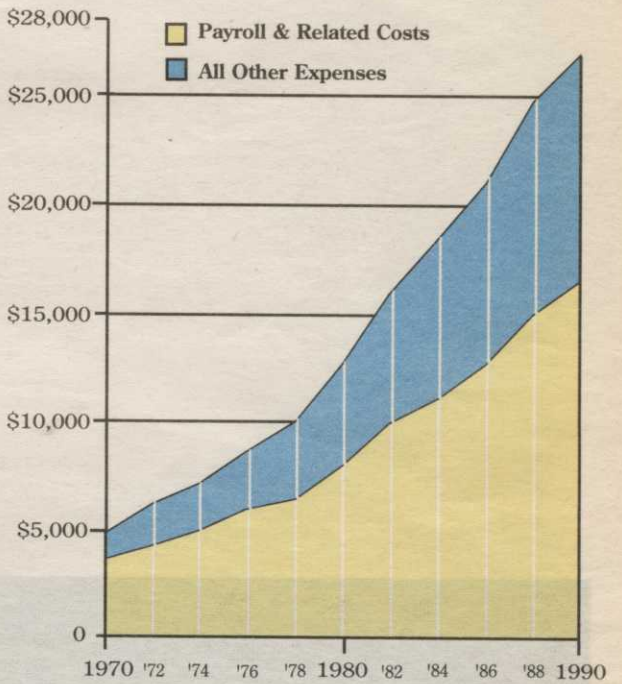
The highest per-hole costs occurred in the Far West, \$34,328. The South, \$27,443, East, \$25,143, and Midwest, \$22,567 followed.

Nationally, payroll (\$14,031) along with payroll taxes and employee benefits (\$2,718) averaged 61.4 percent of per-hole maintenance costs. The \$16,749 total is more than four times greater than the \$3,800 spent on the same items 20 years ago.

Why have labor costs risen so dramatically? Golfers' demands for perfect conditions simply require greater numbers

Continued on page 19

Yearly average costs per hole at country clubs



Source: Pannell Kerr Forster

Florida lawmakers put water law on hold

By Peter Blais

The Florida Legislature will delay action until next year on a proposed water tax that could greatly impact the state's \$5.5-billion golf industry.

The Legislature adjourned last month before committees released bills to levy a 10-cent charge on every 1,000 gallons over a water user's allotment — a fee some estimate would cost many courses \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually.



'A lot needs to be worked out before the Legislature goes forward.'
— Bobby Brantley

But Gov. Lawton Chiles has promised to make passage of a water tax a top

priority when the Legislature reconvenes early next year, according to Florida Golf Council Executive Director Bobby Brantley.

"We're pleased the bill didn't pass," Brantley said. "A lot needs to be worked out before the Legislature goes forward with plans to tax water consumption."

Besides raising much-needed revenue, tax supporters say the extra charge

Continued on page 12

GCSAA out \$1.4M to McLoughlin

By Mark Leslie

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will appeal a May 9 jury verdict in a Topeka, Kan., federal district court awarding \$1,457,742 to former Executive Director

James McLoughlin.

The jury verdict awarded McLoughlin \$457,742 for breach of a separation agreement and \$1 million for libel — \$500,000 compensatory damages and \$500,000 punitive damages.

GCSAA attorney Robert Ochs said he would first file motions with Judge Richard Rogers for a new trial, and if that is denied, he will appeal the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Cir-

Continued on page 22