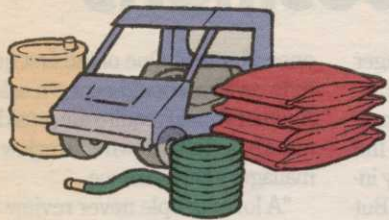


## Briefs



## AMIAD PROMOTES SPRINGER

Amiad U.S.A. Inc. has appointed Steve Springer vice president of sales and marketing.

Springer will be responsible for all marketing and sales activities throughout North America.

Springer was previously associated with Luma Lighting as director of sales and marketing. He also has more than 15 years irrigation experience with Rainbird and Garden America.

He received a bachelors degree from Northern Colorado and masters in business from Claremont University. His office will be at Amiad headquarters in Reseda Calif.

Amiad distributes irrigation, filtration and fertigation products to more than 40 countries.

## HUNTER OFFERS HOTLINE

A new Design and Technical Assistance (DATA) phone line has been initiated by irrigation equipment manufacturer Hunter Industries.

DATA is available to irrigation consultants, landscape architects, distributors, installers and end users. The number is 619-591-7034.

The line was set up under the direction of Jay Inglis, recently appointed company technical information manager.

Inglis has worked with Hunter Industries for more than five years, most recently as district manager in Australia and New Zealand.

## SMITH APPOINTED PRESIDENT

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill. — John R. Smith has been appointed president of the specialty products division of Vigoro Industries, Inc.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Smith will be based in Winter Haven, Fla. Irv Stacy will remain as division vice president.

The division markets proprietary fertilizer products under brand names Par Ex and Woodace. This line of environmentally oriented products features exclusive IBDU and Escote slow-release nitrogen sources for the professional turf and ornamental industry.

## SEARS NAMED IA MEMBERSHIP VP

R.C. "Bob" Sears, the Irrigation Association's executive vice president, has accepted the newly created position of vice president of membership and technical services.

Bob Emmerich, Irrigation Association president, said:

"This move will put our industry and the association in a much better position strategically."

"The cutbacks in water deliveries in California and the measures the state is taking to conserve water will serve as models for the nation."

"It's imperative that we become more active players."

## Pedaling to par in the Northwest

Inventors adapt mountain bike technology to golf cars to provide exercise and fun

By Bob Spiwak

Mike Valentine of Everett, Wash., was golfing in Palm Springs, Calif., last year. The course was crowded, play was slow, and he waited at each hole, sitting in an electric golf car and stewing.

Then the 32-year-old Boeing Co. employee, a lead mechanic on 767 airplanes, had an idea: a pedal-powered golf car.

So-called "mountain bikes" with gear combinations allowing as many as 23 speeds have been the rage for several years. Valentine considered this technology for a golf car. It would provide exercise, speed up play and be environmentally sound. Golfers of all ages could propel the four-wheeled machine.

Valentine, who has several inventions under his belt, all the property of Boeing, got together with his younger brother in Everett and came up with the T<sub>2</sub>t — Transportation to tomorrow.

The prototype vehicle is about five feet long and 30 inches wide. With chrome alloy tubing for the frame, it weighs 40 pounds. It has drum brakes on the front wheels and conventional brakes at the rear, with 1-1/2-inch tires.

While the prototype lacks them, production plans call for independent front suspension and adjustable seat stays.

"It has convenient access to the seat so the vehicle can be mounted and dismounted quickly and easily," said David Valentine, who is in charge of marketing.

The brothers, both golfers, acknowledge the machine has limitations. It is probably best suited to flat, dry courses. In the Puget Sound region, where they live, the turf might be too wet. But, east of the Cascade Mountains and across America, thousands of courses are less liberally watered by Mother Nature.

Ash Court, owner of Bear Creek Golf Club in Winthrop, Wash., expressed interest. "My only concern would be what effect it would have on the wetter areas of the course," he said. "Otherwise, it might be a good idea."

Said Tom Kimbrell, a 2-handicapper, mountain climber and owner of an outdoor equipment store (which also sells and rents mountain bikes): "It sounds terrific. If the tires didn't tear up the course, it seems like a great idea."

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Pedaling golf car designed by Washington inventor Mike Valentine.

T<sub>2</sub>t specifications

Weight:	40 pounds with conventional chrome-alloy tubing. With steel tubing unknown.
Length:	62 inches.
Width:	29.5 inches.
Height:	39.75 inches ground to handlebars, 33 inches ground to highest seat position.
Speeds:	9 speeds with 3-ring crankshaft and 3-speed rear hub.
Brakes:	Two front drum brakes, rear brakes.
Other:	Patent pending drawings include independent front suspension and adjustable seat stays to accommodate persons of every size. Also has removable rack.
Contact:	Valentine & Valentine T <sub>2</sub> t 4615 West View Drive Everett, Wash. 98203 Telephone: 206-259-6782 or 206-339-8097

## Aeration Industries to appeal federal court ruling

MINNEAPOLIS — Aeration Industries International Inc. of Chaska, Minn., will appeal February's federal court ruling that its pond aeration device patent is unenforceable, according to company President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Durda.

"We believe the court made a grievous mistake and will definitely appeal," said Durda of United States District Court Judge Donald D. Alsop's ruling that Aeration Industries'

"Method For Treating Water" patent is not enforceable. Aeration Industries manufactures the Aire-O2 horizontal aerator for, among others, The Toro Co.

Alsop's decision involved Aeration Industries' patent infringement suit against Aeromix System Inc. of Minneapolis filed in November, 1989. Aeromix filed several countersuits. Alsop's ruling allows Aeromix to seek recovery of legal fees from Aeration and press

ahead with other suits that could total millions of dollars in damages.

Despite the ruling, Aeration Industries' patent remains valid, states a company news release. Judge Alsop did not invalidate the patent, nor did he make any findings on the issue of whether or not the patent had been infringed, it reads.

J. Randall Benham of Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly of Minneapolis is Aeration Industries' legal counsel.

## Protection certificates issued for turfgrasses

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently issued certificates of protection to developers of new varieties of red fescue, tall fescue, annual ryegrass and perennial ryegrass.

Issued certificates were:

- Thoroughbred variety of tall fescue developed by Pickseed West, Inc. of Tangent, Ore.
- Rustmaster variety of annual ryegrass developed by Daehnfeld, Inc. of Albany, Ore.
- Pinnacle variety of perennial ryegrass developed by Normarc, Inc. of Tangent.
- Surprise perennial ryegrass developed by Cebeco Zaden, B.V. The Netherlands.
- Barrage variety of perennial ryegrass developed by Barenbrug Holland, B.V. The Netherlands.
- Stallion and Aquarius varieties of perennial ryegrass developed by KWS-AG, West Germany.

Certificates for Surprise and Barrage are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.



Aquatrols President Robert Moore (center) was presented a caricature of his retirement activities during a February cocktail party at the GCSAA Trade Show and Conference in Las Vegas. Moore announced his October retirement during the party for Aquatrols customers and distributors. Also pictured, from left, are Tracy Moore (Aquatrols next president), Cecil Kerr, Frank Lamphier, Tuck Tate, David Moote and Roberta Moore.