

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 9
SEPTEMBER 1991

INSIDE

Golf Course Europe

An impressive lineup of speakers has been assembled for third annual conclave. 11

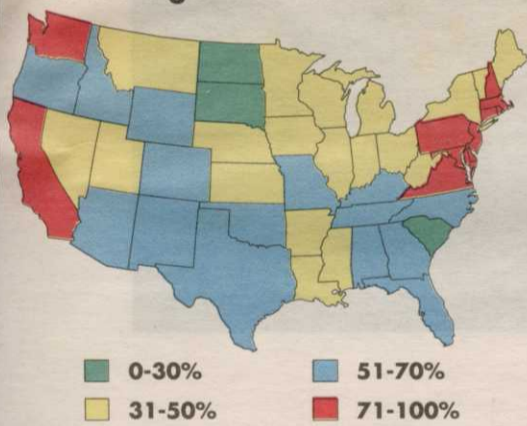
A groundskeeper's odyssey

Mickey Bradley has braved hurricanes and other storms in career conversions 24

New specialty chemicals

Researchers are developing a wide range of products to fight many specific turf problems 37-40

Percent of reporting facilities that feel more golf courses are needed



COURSE MAINTENANCE

International gets perfect match for greens 15
Dramatic improvements reported in ryegrass 15
Andy Brennan uses ingenuity at Opryland 16

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Non-traditional funding sources take spotlight 25
'Sure-fire' methods have passed away 25
Blisses banter and barter to get course built 27

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Florida Golf Council fights new sales tax 33
Marietta CC — a private-to-muni conversion 33
NCA expands conference schedule 33

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Idaho resort-newspaper owner targets burning 35
Lightning warning technology in forefront 35
Marketing conference deadline nears 35

N.Y. AG attacks industry's chemical use

By Peter Blais

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has labeled as "unsupported by fact, inaccurate and misleading" a report that golf course pesticides are jeopardizing ground water on New York's Long Island.

But state Attorney General Robert Abrams' office stands by his office's report.

Spokeswoman Leslie Gersing said the study is not meant as an attack on

the golf industry. Instead it should be viewed as a way to begin reducing pesticide use on golf courses, which use far more of the chemicals than lawn care companies or agriculture, she added.

"We found that golf courses used chemicals with the greatest ability to leach into ground water," she said. "There are ways to use healthier pesticides that are less harmful to ground water."

Information for the report, titled Toxic

Fairways: Risking Groundwater Contamination From Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses, was voluntarily supplied by 52 of 107 Long Island courses contacted. Long Island was chosen because its porous and permeable soil makes its ground water particularly vulnerable to hazardous substances from the surface, according to Abrams. Ground water is the sole source of drinking water for the area's 3 million

Continued on page 17

GCSAA starts development department

By Peter Blais

Funding new research and scholarship programs will be the focus of a new department created by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Director of Communications Pat Jones has been appointed director of development for the department, which will attempt to raise \$1 million to permanently capitalize the association's scholarship programs and additional funds to finance research projects complementing the U.S. Golf

Continued on page 42



Golfers enjoy the fifth, and newest, municipal course in Rockford, Ill. The course is named after retired businessman Norris Aldeen, who donated \$2 million in land and trees. For more on the Aldeen course, see page 31.

Oregon extinguishing seed growers' burns

By Bob Spiwak

Field burning of turfgrass in Oregon will be a thing of the past by the turn of the century.

On Aug. 7, on a hill overlooking Willamette Valley, Gov. Barbara Roberts signed into law a measure that will gradually decrease the number of acres of fields that can be burned.

The bill also increases fees growers will pay to burn, and provides \$500,000 a year from state coffers to finance research into alternatives to setting the fields afire.

Burning has long been done to remove straw and thatch from turf fields, with an added benefit of limiting diseases. With more than 400,000 acres of turf seed in cultivation in the valley, the smoke produced has long been a source of controversy.

Two decades ago, a move was made to eliminate the fires, but never came to pass. In 1975, a limit of 250,000 acres allowed to be burned was established.

The new law decreased field burning to 180,000 acres this year, down to 40,000 by 1998 and an ultimate ban two years

later.

Propane flaming was restricted to 75,000 acres, with a ban on that method after 1998 unless federal and state pollution standards are met.

According to Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Seed Council, burning with propane produces a smaller volume of smoke than open burning, while ridding the fields of crown stubble and disease.

There is a tradeoff. Whereas a hundred acres can be purged in a half hour

Continued on page 35

Mobay appeals \$4.75M EPA fine

PHILADELPHIA — A \$4.75-million penalty, the largest ever for a new chemical violation, has been assessed against Mobay Corp. of Pittsburgh, for violations of the Toxic Substance Control Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued administrative complaints against Mobay and fellow major chemical company Allied Colloids, Inc. of Suffolk, Va. The Allied Colloids fine was \$2 million.

A Mobay spokesman said the firm contends that it had complied with the law, and plans to appeal.

Penalties against Mobay and Allied Colloids were determined by applying an en-

Continued on page 36

Golf industry disputes N.Y. attorney general's report

Continued from page 1
residents.

Four to seven times more pesticides per treated acre were applied to golf courses than food crops, and two times more than homeowners apply to lawns, the report found. Private courses used more pesticides than public courses and fungicides were used more than herbicides or insecticides.

A third of the more than 200,000 pounds of pesticides applied to the 52 Long Island golf courses are classified as probable or possible carcinogens by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to Abrams.

"The heavy use of potentially dangerous pesticides on golf courses in Nassau and Suffolk counties year after year jeopardizes Long Island's ground water quality, especially since many golf courses are located in vulnerable recharge areas," Abrams said. "At least one of these chemicals, chlorothalonil, a probable human carcinogen, has already been detected in some Long Island ground water wells."

"Lax federal regulation of pesticides is at the root of the problem, and I think it is time for Congress and EPA to act to reduce the overuse of pesticides for non-agricultural purposes."

Six of the active ingredients listed by the courses — propoxur, DDVP, oryzalin, trifluralin, fosetyl-A1 and chlorothalonil — are classified as possible or probable carcinogens by EPA, the report states. Another three — trichlorofon, mancozeb and maneb — break down in the environment into substances EPA classifies as probable human carcinogens.

EPA is assessing five more — oxadiazon, benomyl, metalaxyl, pentachloronitrobenzene and captan — for carcinogenicity, the report states.

The report claims many of these pesticides have potential for migrating to ground water. Dacthal, the second most heavily used herbicide, and other reported pesticides have been detected in ground water in Suffolk County on the tip of Long Island.

The presence of small-leaching-potential pesticides like Dacthal and chlorothalonil in the ground water supply illustrates the area's vulnerability to contamination, according to the report.

Many of these pesticides are also applied by homeowners, Abrams noted.

The report makes several recommendations. They are:

- Reducing pesticide hazards by prohibiting known or probable carcinogen-containing chemicals for aesthetic purposes like golf courses; considering leachability and toxicity of pesticides before application and avoiding those with potentially toxic effects; routine government monitoring of ground water; advisories on labels of pesticides known to cause ground water contamination; prohibiting pesticides known to leach into ground water where the aquifer is particularly vulnerable to contamination; and permitting only certified pesticide applicators to use pesticides that leach into ground water.

- Minimizing pesticide use through less toxic alternatives and Integrated Pest Management practices backed up by federal and state legislation mandating reductions; and advisories by pesticide applicators that reduced or non-chemical alternatives to pesticides are available.

- Full disclosure including label warnings that pesticide use may pose potential health and environmental risks; label statements that registration doesn't guarantee a pesticide is risk-free; legislation requiring advance public notices of pesticide applications; and amending federal law to allow private individuals to sue and recover legal costs to halt false and deceptive pesticide safety claims.

"It is time to re-examine the true environmental costs of the heavy use of potentially cancer-causing pesticides simply to create picture-perfect lawns or golf courses," Abrams said. "While there are benefits to using pesticides to protect our food supply, it is another matter to introduce probable carcinogens into the environment for merely aesthetic purposes."



GOLF INDUSTRY'S RESPONSE

GCSAA President Stephen Cadenelli said: "The primary thrust of the report seems to be that, simply because these materials are applied on golf courses, they will de facto enter ground water. Yet, no scientific evidence is cited in the report to support this notion."

"In fact, actual monitoring and sampling studies suggest that there is very little movement of materials applied on golf courses — even in more vulnerable soils than those found on Long Island."

Charles Cross, vice president of the Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association, agreed with Cadenelli.

"There's nothing to back up what the report implies," he said. "There is no proof that golf courses pollute ground water. Turf is a great barrier to pesticides reaching ground water. The report appeals to the emotional side of the pesticide issue rather than the scientific one."

The report also concerned Allen James, executive director of the recently formed Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, an organization consisting primarily of specialty chemical manufacturers, formulators and distributors charged with explaining the benefits of the proper use of pesticides.

"We share the attorney general's concern for water quality," said the RISE spokesman. "But this report is not scientific, the methodology is not clearly defined and the conclu-

There's nothing new or revolutionary in the recommendations. Some superintendents are already doing a good job of following these recommendations. But some should do a better job.'

— Jim Snow

sions and recommendations are not supported by the report. The recommendations are extreme. Just because a product hasn't been re-tested doesn't mean it should be pulled off the market."

James said properly trained superintendents apply pesticides in an environmentally safe manner and with an eye toward leachability. He supported the EPA's current labeling and re-registration requirements. Claims that many golf course pesticides are known carcinogens are false, making prohibiting their use inappropriate, he added.

The RISE executive backed the Professional Lawn Care Association of America's call for pre-notification of applications by homeowners, but said pre-notification requirements for golf courses were overly cumbersome because of the size of golf courses and the large number of homeowners who would have to be notified.

Jim Snow, national director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section, said some of the report's recommendations are valid and should be pursued, while others are controversial and will require compromise.

Snow agreed pesticides found in ground water should not be used; pesticide users should consider a product's toxicity; regular ground water monitoring should be done; label advisories are good ideas; and licensed applicators should be the only ones allowed to use potentially toxic chemicals.

On the other hand, much of Long Island is not sandy, but rather heavy soils with little potential for leaching, Snow said. That information is not included in the report, he noted.

"There's nothing new or revolutionary in

the recommendations," he said. "Some superintendents are already doing a good job of following these recommendations. But some should do a better job."

Snow is familiar with Long Island's water problems, having done graduate work in the area in the early 1970s while at Cornell University. Researchers found farm chemicals in the water. It was a concern then and it is now, he said.

"Three million people drink the water and they should be concerned," he said. "Unfortunately, much of the report is designed for shock value. That offends professionals who work with pesticides and their reaction is commonly to dismiss the report too quickly."

"But there is a lot of information there that is valid and important. It should be considered. You may not like the report's approach, but there is important information there."

Cadenelli pointed to independent studies done at Cape Cod, Mass., as well as Cornell and Pennsylvania State universities showing that properly applied golf course chemicals pose no threat to ground water.

"Any suggestion that turf chemicals, when professionally and properly applied, will enter ground water under golf courses in any amount sufficient to pose risks to humans is without foundation in science," the GCSAA president said.

Michael Surgan, Ph.D, chief environmental scientist in Abrams' office, claimed the Cape Cod study is not applicable on Long Island since Cape Cod superintendents used half as much pesticides as their counterparts on Long Island.

Surgan added that the Cape Cod study, which indicated the presence of eight pesticides and pesticide metabolites along with two compounds of undetermined origins, had two shortcomings regarding monitoring well placement. Some of the wells were dug too deep to detect surface-applied pesticides, he said. Others were placed upstream from where the pesticide applications were made, so that the chemicals had no chance of flowing past the well, he said.

The Cape Cod study authors acknowledged the deficiencies, Surgan said, and also recommended golf courses built in shallow aquifer

Continued on page 19

SAVE UP TO \$209.00

**P100 VHF 5 Watt
2 Chan. \$319.00 ea.
6 Chan. \$389.00 ea.**

**Quantity discounts apply
in lots of 3 or more**

**MOTOROLA
Radius®**

**P100 UHF 4 Watt
2 Chan. \$369.95 ea.
6 Chan. \$439.95 ea.**

**Quantity discounts apply
in lots of 3 or more**

1-800-527-1670

Offer
Expires
October 1,
1991.



PAGE-COM

10935 Alder Circle
(214) 680-9750

Dallas, Texas 75238
Fax: (214) 349-8950

GCSAA's international conference and show taking form

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Famed country singer Kenny Rogers and former professional football star Terry Bradshaw will share the spotlight with prominent golf world figures Feb. 10-17 at New Orleans Convention Center.

The occasion is the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 63rd International Golf Course Conference and Show.

In a unique two-state arrangement, the 1992 superintendents golf championship will be played Feb. 10-11 on Sawgrass courses,

Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Rogers' show, at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, is geared to country and pop music lovers, and will follow presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award to an individual who has helped further the game with the same dedication and inspiration as Morris.

Quarterback Bradshaw, who led the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl wins and was elected to the National Football League Hall of Fame in 1989, is among the nation's best motivational speakers.



His forceful talk will be at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13.

Pre-conference seminars are listed Monday through Thursday, Feb. 10-13, and offer continuing education units.

Environmental issues that di-

rectly affect golf course management will be addressed at a general session at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14.

Speakers are Jay Feldman, national coordinator of the national coalition against the misuses of pesticides; Linda Fisher, EPA's assistant administrator for pesticides and toxic substances, and John Stossel, ABC's "20-20" news analyst and environmental reporter.

Official trade show opening will be marked by a ribbon cutting ceremony at 9 a.m. Saturday. There will be A Golf Course Builders of

America session at 1 p.m., and a zoysiagrass forum at the same time.

Wendy Stebbins' provocative topic at 9 a.m. Sunday will be "Dealing with Difficult People."

There will be sessions at 1 p.m. for the American Society of Golf Course Architects and green chairmen.

Building to the Monday night climax will be an exhibitors' breakfast meeting and USGA Green Section program at 8 a.m., trade show opening at 9 a.m. and annual meeting and election at 1 p.m.

AG's report

Continued from page 17

areas use hydrological mapping, monitoring wells and turf management plans to reduce pesticides.

Cadenelli took exception to Abrams' claim that pesticides are applied for merely aesthetic reasons. Superintendents apply plant protectants in an environmentally responsible manner to control disease, insects and unwanted plants that cause damage to a very valuable piece of property, he said.

Cadenelli said properly maintained turfgrass also benefits a community by preventing erosion, cleansing the air of pollutants, cooling the atmosphere, providing habitat for birds and wildlife and filtering pollutants from rain and irrigation water. Many courses use reclaimed water for irrigation, providing a place to dispose of and clean effluent before it reaches ground water supplies.

Superintendents have long used integrated pest management strategies, minimizing pesticide use to have the least effect on people, property and the environment, he said.

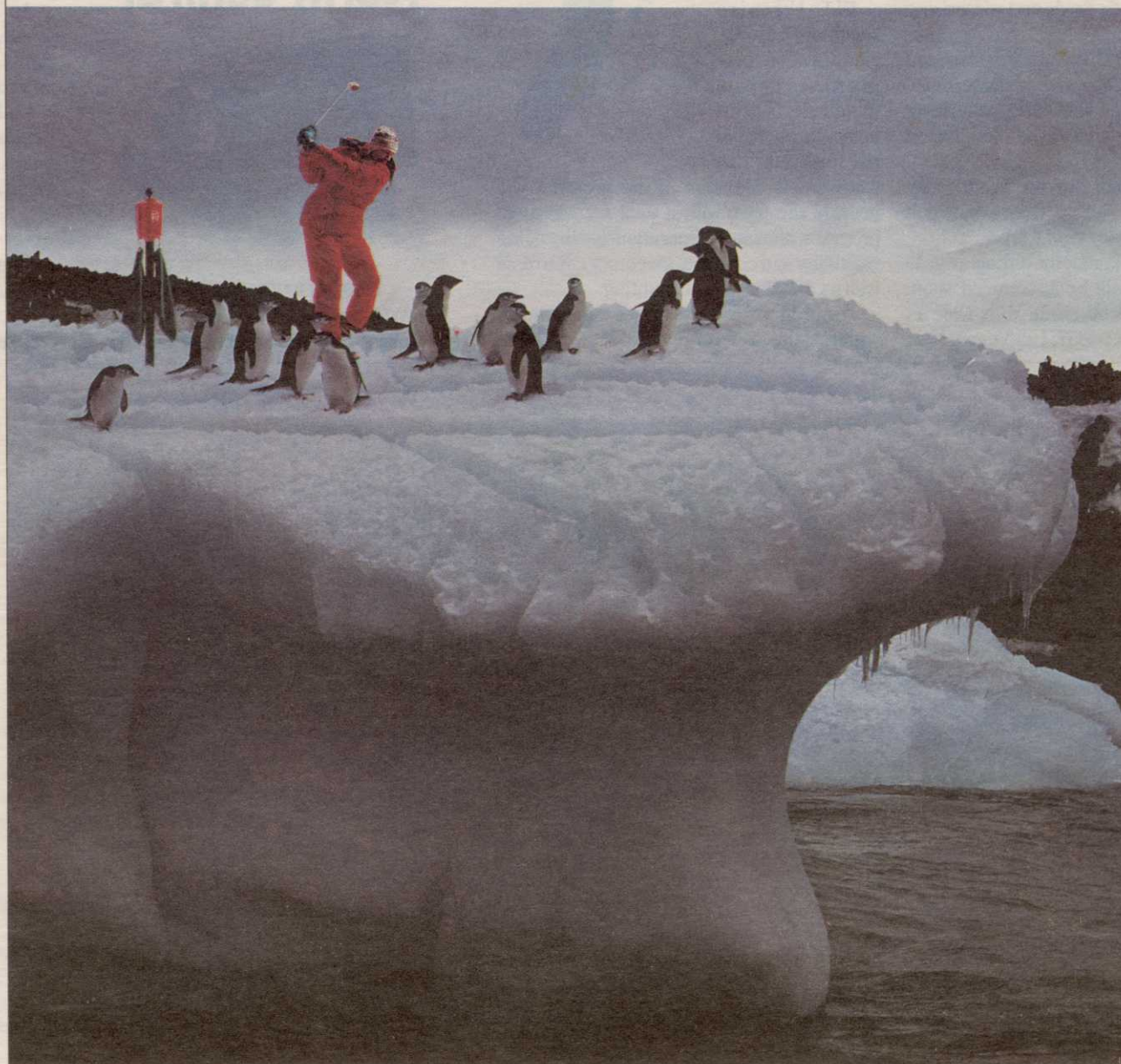
"Given the expense of chemicals and our own deep concerns about protecting natural resources, why would we use them unnecessarily?" Cadenelli asked. "Modern emphasis and education is on using pesticides curatively, as a doctor would use a specific medicine to treat a specific problem."

Many courses use IPMs, agreed Maria Cinque, a turf specialist at Cornell Cooperative Extension on Long Island where IPM has been taught the last 10 years. "I believe that the amount of pesticides has definitely been reduced during this period," she said.

Added Cross: "IPM is relatively new, but we (Long Island superintendents) have been practicing the principles a long time. We don't routinely apply pesticides just for the sake of applying them. We walk the course daily and just apply them where we need them. We drink the water, too, so why would we want to pollute it?"

Club members and the public have shown little concern over the report, said Cross, who met with his greens committee shortly after the report was published.

"The chairman wanted to know where we stood. I told him and he was satisfied," Cross said.



Wherever Golf Is Played

Courses on every continent recognize the quality and value we build into every Par Aide product. Sometimes, the Classic Touch of Par Aide is enough to make the gallery show up in tuxedos.

For a free copy of the new Par Aide Catalog showing our complete line of the world's finest golf course accessories, contact your Par Aide dealer or call us at 612-779-9851.



Par Aide Products Co. • 3565 Hoffman Rd. East • St. Paul, MN

Pictured above: The inaugural drive at the world's first Antarctic Open.

© 1990, Par Aide Products Co.