

BRIEFS

Simmering in Death Valley's mega-heat



ENVIRONMENTAL CARE EXPANDS

ATLANTA, Ga. — Bruce K. Wilson, president of Environmental Care, Inc., has announced the opening of a new branch at 6990-D Peachtree Industrial Blvd. in Norcross.

Having expanded steadily since its beginning in 1968, Environmental Care's horticulturists work with fully certified and licensed staff to provide landscape maintenance, water management services, specialized arbor care, interiorscape design, installation and maintenance; and light landscape construction.

Jack E. Mattingly, who headed the Los Angeles branch of Environmental Care, is heading the Atlanta branch.

EQUIPMENT MANAGERS' NEEDS TOPIC

LAWRENCE, Kan. — GCSAA plans this summer a special resource committee to develop seminars addressing the mechanical, regulatory and personnel aspects of the golf course equipment manager's job.

The resulting educational program will be introduced in greater detail at the equipment manager session of the GCSAA Conference and Show Jan. 30, 1993, at Anaheim, Calif.

GCSAA SEEKS INNOVATIVE IDEAS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — "The Innovative Superintendent," a series of presentations by GCSAA-member superintendents, will be a feature of the Jan. 28 afternoon session of the 1993 Conference and Show at Anaheim, Calif.

David M. Bishop, GCSAA director of education, said, "We are looking for superintendents willing to share their expertise. We seek current information and new ideas."

SAFETY HELP OFFERED SUPERS

SafetyMaster Corp., a distributor of commercial safety products, has announced it will donate 1 percent of revenues generated from golf course sales to help fund the scientific and educational efforts of GCSAA's Scholarship & Research Fund.

Its 81-page safety equipment catalog will be distributed to GCSAA members next spring.

ZELLERS GETS REAL DEL MAR POST

TIJUANA — Craig Forrest Zellers has been named superintendent of golf for Real Del Mar Golf Course, an 18-hole course under construction at Real Del Mar, a destination resort on the coast 12 miles south of Tijuana.

Zellers will oversee all maintenance operations for the course, which is scheduled to open for public play in the fall.

Zellers has more than 14 years of experience in the golf industry, most recently as the golf course superintendent for the Carlton Oaks Country Club in Santee, Calif.

By DOUG SAUNDERS

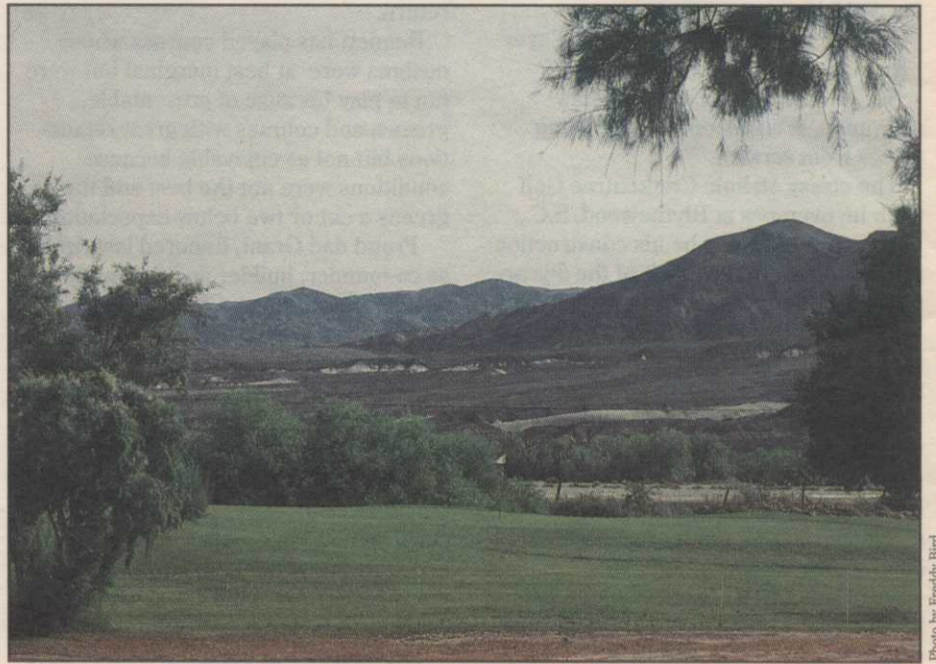
In mid-summer, course superintendents throughout the country battle their own form of severe weather. But their concept of severity can only pale to the brutality raged by Mother Nature in the treeless wasteland of Death Valley, Calif.

Temperatures range from as high as 134 degrees in the summer to a low of 19 in winter. Daytime temperatures average 120 in summer while nighttime temperatures might drop to 100 degrees, offering little reprieve from the onslaught. The oppressive sun relentlessly bakes the ground until soil temperatures can reach 200 degrees. With an average of 1.91 inches of rain a year, it seems impossible for anything to thrive here at the lowest spot in the Western Hemisphere.

Yet in the midst of nature's oven exists Furnace Creek Golf Course at the Furnace Creek Ranch. Here lies a desert oasis surrounded by the salty remnant of a dead lake, miles of sand dunes, and the wrinkled, rocky precipices of 11,000-foot mountains that hold in the stifling heat.

Here lies an 18-hole golf course that for more than 65 years has offered a form of escape from the monotony of this arid world. Here is the chance to play golf in the most uninhabitable place on Earth.

Furnace Creek Ranch was settled in the



At the lowest point on earth, Furnace Creek grounds crews defy all odds in keeping grass alive.

late 1880s during the frantic quest for minerals throughout this stretch of California. Large deposits of borax — an essential mineral in the production of items from tires and cosmetics, to insulation and glass — were discovered.

The Harmony Borax Works, just a mile

from the ranch, quickly grew and the ranch provided alfalfa for the livestock that hauled the ore across the chalky floor on the famous 20-mule team wagons.

In the 1920s, Furnace Creek Ranch had become grazing land for cattle and the area

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A kayaker herds a flock of geese out of a pond at Indian Tree Golf Course in Lakewood, Colo., for transportation out of state.

Photo by Pat O'Connor, Colorado DOW

With a giddy-yup, mush...

By MARK LESLIE

Cowboys, roundups and Colorado. A natural combination. But a new ingredient has entered the equation: Geese.

Geese are indeed fouling up golf courses across Colorado, and superintendents in that state — along with cooperative government employees — are doing something about it. They are rounding them up and driving them out, literally. The destination is new residences — the big lakes of Oklahoma and Kansas.

The trail boss is Dick Kingman, a.k.a. Richard Kingman, a 25-year lobbyist at the state capital and long-time associate member of the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association.

"Some golf courses are absolutely inundated with geese," said Kingman, who led the roundup with a team from the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Oklahoma Department of Game, Fish and Wildlife.

Kingman reported 1,157 geese were corralled June 29 to July 1 during their moulting period when they were losing their flight feathers.

At each golf course a corral is built and placed in the water or by the lake bank and the geese are herded. But the cowboys are in kayaks, not riding horseback.

The 1,157 geese are 300 more than corralled in 1991, an increase Kingman attributed to a mild winter this year.

Lakewood and Rolling Hills country clubs and Englewood, Centennial, Windsor Gardens and Lowry Air Force Base golf courses, along with parks and cemeteries, participated in the roundup. Each year different courses participate because at least 25 are required for a pickup and it usually takes a couple of years or more for that high a population to build up.

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Turf pioneer Beard retires

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Dr. James B. Beard has retired from Texas A&M University after 35 years in turfgrass research and teaching, but plans to continue full-time involvement with the turfgrass industry.

The professor of turfgrass physiology and ecology in the university's department of soil and crop sciences has with wife Harriet authored five books and a laboratory manual. He authored 228 scientific papers and 316 technical articles.

He has given numerous invitational papers and been an adviser at international conferences and symposia in the United States, Canada, England, Europe, Far East, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia.

Dr. Beard pioneered investigations in turfgrass evapotranspiration, drought stress, metabolic basis of indirect heat stress, shade adaptation, wear tolerance, nitrogen and potassium stress and thatch biodegradation. Particularly hailed was his discovery of the spring root decline phenomenon in C-4 grasses.

Jensen promotes Kirchhoff

David Jensen Associates, Inc. has named Wayne Kirchhoff as project manager for the land planning and landscape architecture firm.

Kirchhoff earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Kansas State University in 1973 and has worked for design firms in Colorado, Kansas and Arizona.