

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2
FEBRUARY 1992

INSIDE

Saluting water solutions

For Gainey Ranch, its own effluent plant turned the trick; for Ocean Reef, it was ocean water. 17

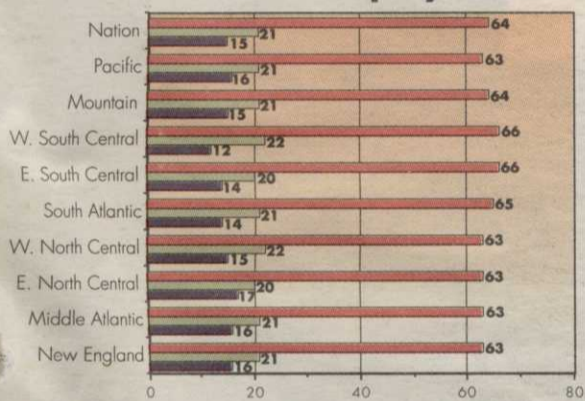
The tests are final

Long-term results are in for the national Kentucky bluegrass and ryegrass tests. 24-25

All-sand recipe

Mike Hurdzan, PhD and architect, challenges the norm in greens construction. 31

Would Americans play more?



Americans were asked: "If there were more opportunities to play golf in your community, would you be more interested in the game of golf? Here are their responses by region."

Source: NGF

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Flood devastates Texas courses

By Peter Blais

Jack and Melissa Fletcher stood along the banks of the Brazos River Christmas Eve watching the rain-swollen waters rise at the rate of an inch per hour and drown their nine-hole course.

"It died a slow death," recalled Jack, who helps daughter Melissa manage Valley Lodge Golf Club in Simonton, Texas, 30 miles west of Houston. "It was a very helpless feeling."

Valley Lodge was one of many courses suffering major damage from the heavy rains that deluged eastern Texas in late December and

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Retreating flood waters left behind massive debris throughout Ridgewood Country Club in Waco, Texas, including the 10th fairway. Photo courtesy of Mandel Brockinton

Strategic plan critical challenge to club managers' association

By Peter Blais

Jack Sullivan found his bride and a career on the golf course.

The new Club Managers Association of America president was a high school teacher in Fairfield, Iowa, when he met wife, Darcy. Darcy's house bordered the fifth tee at Fairfield Golf & Country Club.

The two played a lot of golf together and Jack eventually got a part-time job as the club's bar manager. He quickly became the club's assistant manager and his career was off and running.

That career has taken him to The Whiconda Club in Des Moines, Iowa, Nakoma Golf Club in Madison, Wis. and his present employer, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.

"This is the first time I've been at a club without a golf course," said Sullivan, who came aboard Grosse Pointe in 1987. "Basically, I've traded in the golf course for a harbor. Where I used to worry about green speeds, weather conditions affecting the course and helping the superintendent deal with turf diseases, now I worry about water levels, how

weather conditions affect the fleet and helping the harbor master plan boating activities.

"I grew up in the golf business as a manager and I closely follow the golf industry. I'm still a golfer, although my game has suffered from not having a course out the back door. My handicap used to be in single digits. Now it's up around 18.

"As CMAA president, I represent the entire club industry. Two-thirds of our members manage country clubs with golf courses. As the association goes through our strategic planning process over the next 18 months, what we do will be strongly dictated by the golf industry."

Completing that strategic plan will be Sullivan's primary goal during his



Jack Sullivan

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Wetlands manual in midst of flux

From staff reports

The long-awaited revision of the Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands remains on hold and developers have been told to disregard the 1989 manual in favor of the 1987 version.

Mike Kelly, vice president of Williamsburg Environmental Group in Williamsburg, Va., said a revised manual probably will not be completed for another six to 12 months.

"The reason is that environmentalists are up in arms over Bush's wetlands plan," Kelly said. "Hysteria has caused pressure to re-evaluate changes."

Meanwhile, he said, a bill in Congress, introduced by Louisiana Rep. Jimmy Hayes and co-sponsored by more than 145 congressmen, is "moving slowly through the process." Hayes' bill would revamp the whole Clean Water Action Section 404 program and override regulations instituted by government agencies.

The Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Soil Conservation Service — which

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Stricter pesticide laws in the making

By Peter Blais

A growing number of communities are proposing laws restricting pesticides since last summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that federal law cannot stop local governments from regulat-

ing their use.

The result could be thousands of unscientific, contradictory regulations making it harder for golf course superintendents and others in the turf industry do their job, according to those supporting

recently proposed legislation allowing federal law to preempt local ordinances.

"We are pushing for uniform pesticide laws imposed by federal and state governments based on good science,

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