

# 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

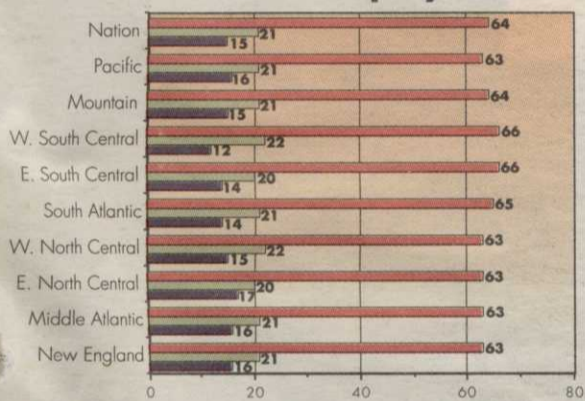
## The tests are final

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

### COURSE MAINTENANCE

- Kozelnicky garners Georgia honors ..... 17
- Steel tackles management and turf ..... 18
- Palmer Maples reaps laurels ..... 21

### COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- Golf communities in turbulent times ..... 31
- Rees Jones continues his Open-ing act ..... 36
- Development plan paves way for counties ..... 38

### COURSE MANAGEMENT

- CMAA show most successful ever ..... 64
- NCGOA honors PGA Tour ..... 64
- Dye Designs educating future employees ..... 64

### SUPPLIER BUSINESS

- Pennington expands operations ..... 71
- New products hit the marketplace ..... 74-82
- Literature tells the equipment story ..... 83

## 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

Continued on page 26



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

Continued on page 68

## 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

Continued on page 13

## 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,

Continued on page 19



## Oak savanna object of redesign

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — A Santa Clarita developer will redesign a golf course for the second time to preserve an oak savanna. The plans call for an 18-hole course and 1,880 housing units to be built on 800 acres in portions of a Significant Ecological Area near Magic Mountain.

The developers wanted to cut 148 oak trees to make way for nine holes of golf and some housing.

## Hawaiian agency charged with golf policy

### State report says gov't must be more restrictive

The Hawaiian Legislature has charged the Office of State Planning with creating new golf course policy recommendations, the result of recommendations from a state-funded report.

Most of the recommendations would make it somewhat harder to create new golf courses. There are 68 golf courses in Hawaii, 13 of them on the Big Island, with 95 more proposed for Hawaii, 31 of them on

the Big Island.

The city and county of Honolulu have been charging impact fees, development taxes and community benefit assessments, all special fees.

Golf course developers now must supply an environmental impact statement, but the state report says the government needs to be more restrictive, saying there should be no new golf courses in conservation districts and only very limited golf development on agricultural land.

A final report will include criteria for establishing areas of development.

One new golf course proposal, part of a development, has become part of the solution.

A semi-municipal golf course at the Keauhou Kona Resort at Kealahou will include a leach field for a \$42 million sewage treatment plant.

Effluent from the plant is to be used to irrigate the course. The plant is under contract to provide a million gallons of effluent daily.

## Harry Eckhoff dies at 88

JUPITER, Fla. — Col. Harry C. Eckhoff, whose career with the National Golf Foundation spanned 31 years, died Dec. 25 at his home in Lake Park, Fla., after a prolonged illness. He was 88.

He is survived by his wife, Jo, and two sisters, Violet Eckhoff and Dorothy Owen, both of Kansas City, Mo.

"Other than Herb and Joe Graffis, who founded the NGF back in 1936, I can't think of anyone who has had more influence on the foundation than did Harry Eckhoff," said Joseph Beditz, NGF president and chief executive officer. "Harry was a walking encyclopedia of golf course development information and a great communicator, which was of tremendous value and help to all of us who had the good fortune of working with him. He also touched the lives of hundreds upon hundreds of NGF members who sought him out over the years for his special expertise ... and I know the news of his passing has saddened them as well."

Col. Eckhoff retired from NGF in 1988. He joined the foundation in 1957, following successful careers as a band leader, teacher, writer, and a colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

He served in many capacities, beginning as a field man and East Coast director, then two years as executive director before moving onto director of information services, and finally to director of golf facility development in 1976. In this capacity, he oversaw the vast library of information the NGF has on golf course development.

A prolific writer and editor, he was responsible for creation of *Planning and Building a Golf Course* and the *Golf Operations Handbook*, two works that remain the cornerstones of NGF's library of publications.

The NGF established the Harry C. Eckhoff Award in 1979, to recognize excellence in local and regional golf journalism.

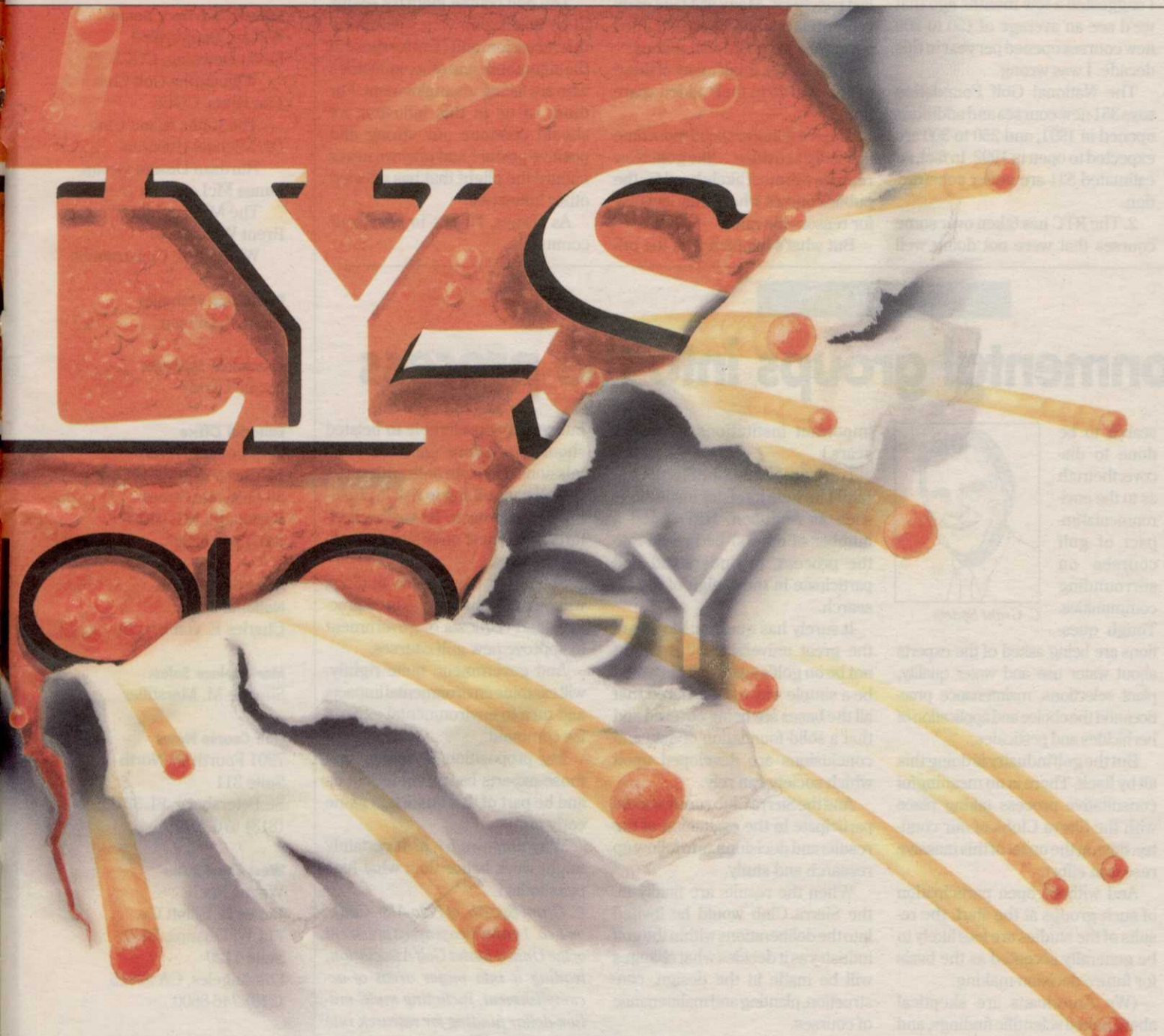
## Wetlands

Continued from page 1

are now abiding by the 1987 wetlands manual — have proposed maintaining the current regulatory definitions of wetlands. But they propose adding a new section to their regulations that would describe the identifying characteristics of wetlands by incorporating the central components of the proposed manual. In addition, the Army proposes to amend the Cod of Federal Regulations to include the entire federal manual when it is finalized.

Proposed revisions to the manual were first published last Aug. 14. A 60-day public comment period was later extended until Dec. 14 and again to Jan. 21.

The newest proposal contains criteria for determining the presence of hydrology, vegetation and hydric soils — all of which determine if an area is a wetland.



# performance and value.

offers you so much residual flexibility with the economy of Poly-S technology.

The durability of the Poly-S coating protects the nutrients without the need for the waxes and conditioners often used to mask coating imperfections in traditional sulfur coated products. So there's no dust problem and no wax residue on spreaders—increasing the convenience and accuracy of application.

Poly-S technology also makes the fertilizer granules more abrasion-resistant than SCU, so that they are applied to the turf with the coatings *intact*, virtually eliminating the chance of premature release of nitrogen leading to surge growth and turf damage.

The Poly-S process actually requires less total coating than with

SCU products, providing higher nitrogen analysis. And it's less sensitive to temperature than fertilizers coated with polymer only.

The result: more value from the fertilizer you apply, with an overall improvement in turf quality.

And all Poly-S fertilizers come with a Scott Tech Rep, an agronomically trained professional ready to help you develop a total turfgrass program that assures proper application and maintenance scheduling.

For more information about Poly-S fertilizers and their performance advantages, contact your Scott Tech Rep. Or call 1-800-543-0006.



Growing better through technology.