

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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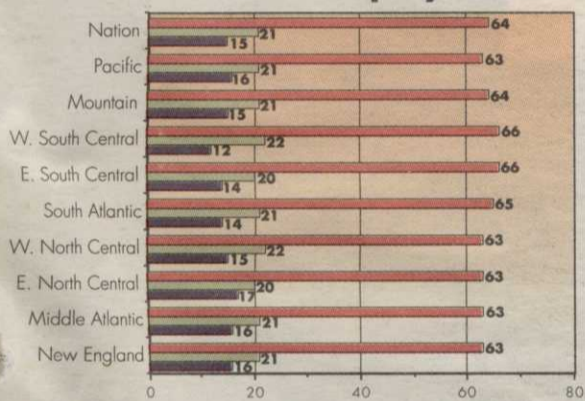
The tests are final

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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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Towns toughening pesticide laws in wake of High Court ruling

Continued from page 1

sufficient testing and Environmental Protection Agency registration," said Allen James, executive director of Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, an association representing chemical manufacturers and distributors.

"Local ordinances are more likely to be based on emotion and pressure from local groups rather than reflect good science. Superintendents who rely on thoroughly tested products may not be able to use them."

Approximately 100 communities have begun the process of enacting new ordinances or enforcing existing ones since last June's Supreme Court ruling that local regulations pre-empt the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, James said.

The voters of Missoula, Mont., recently rejected a proposed ordinance requiring posting of warning signs one day before and two days after outdoor pesticide applications. The vote was fairly close, 5,814-4,352.

The pesticide industry, related associations, local businesses and citizens spent \$32,000 on an educational program aimed at Missoula voters to help defeat the measure, James said.

"We won't put that kind of effort in everywhere," James said. "We'll use the lessons learned there in other communities."

An ordinance restricting pesticide use within the city limits was proposed last month in the hometown of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America — Lawrence, Kan.

The ordinance was a rough copy of a proposed U.S. Senate bill that would require posting 72 hours before and after pesticide applications within 1,000 feet of the application site, according to Dave Fearis, superintendent at Blue Hills Country Club in nearby Kansas City, Mo.

Fearis was on hand for the City Council debate, along with members of the lawn care and pesticide industries.

The woman proposing the anti-pesticide ordinance owns an organic food market, Fearis reported. Another person speaking on behalf of the proposal was an official with the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides.

While agriculture and the golf industry are sometimes at odds, in this case they were united. Standing alongside the golf, lawn care and pesticide industry representatives was a farmer, who said the ordinance would ruin the local economy, Fearis added.

"You have to give the council credit," Fearis said. "They listened to both sides. They had just returned from a retreat where they listed 10 to 15 priorities. Pesticide use wasn't one of them. So they basically tabled it for the next four months."

The precedent for local pesticide regulation in Maine was set two years ago when a group of Lebanon residents successfully argued be-

fore the state Supreme Court for a local ordinance banning the electric company from spraying herbicides along right-of-ways, according to Gary Fish, certification and licensing specialist with the state Board of Pesticide Control.

Since then, 13 other towns have passed local laws regulating pesticide use, ranging from simple notification to the local code enforcement officer of restricted-use pesticide applications in resource protection districts near the town of Wells to a total ban of pesticides in Southport.

"We've received calls from some towns asking what others have done since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling," Fish said. "I think most are waiting to see what happens with the national FIFRA pre-emption proposals in Congress before they do anything."

The Coalition for Sensible Pesticide Policy, an organization of 160 associations, is pushing for proposed federal and state bills that would reauthorize federal pre-emption of local pesticide laws.

Two similar bills were introduced in Congress shortly before Christmas — U.S. House of Representatives bill H.R. 3850 and U.S. Senate bill S. 2085. They would amend FIFRA, authorizing federal and state governments to exclusively regulate the use of pesticides and prohibiting local government regulation. Thirty-one congressmen and six senators are sponsoring the proposals.

"The bills are picking up strength," said James, a member of the CSPP's steering committee. "They haven't been scheduled for hearings yet, but we're hoping Congress will move on them quickly. CSPP believes they have a good chance of passage now that

Congress realizes local jurisdiction is not in the best interest of the public."

Colorado green industry officials are hoping the Denver City Council will reject or at least table action on a proposed local notification ordinance until Congress acts.

The Denver proposal would require prenotification and postnotification for applications made more than five feet above ground. It also conflicts with state law regarding aquatic applications, according to Tom Tolkacz, operations manager with Swingle Tree Co. in Denver.

The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association has worked with the Green Industries of Colorado to defeat the measure, Tolkacz said. The City Council was scheduled to review the ordinance Feb. 4.

"That's when we anticipate they will decide whether to vote on it immediately, discuss it some more or table it," he said. "If we can get them to table it, that gets us closer to seeing how the House and Senate bills go."

"We'd consider tabling the measure a victory, although our ultimate goal is to defeat it. This is important, because what happens in Denver will likely be repeated elsewhere in Colorado."

On the state level, CSPP has developed model pre-emption language for both "home" rule and "non-home" rule states, emphasizing those states identified as having a greater need for consistent regulation.

The coalition has also started a Local Ordinance Information Network for notifying members of pending local regulations throughout the country.

Towns considering pesticide regulation

ALABAMA Huntsville *#	MASSACHUSETTS Agawam Boston **	NEW YORK Buffalo *# Cazenovia Great Neck Estate Old Woodbury Tarrytown
CALIFORNIA Mendocino Co	Great Barrington Greenfield Mansfield Mashpee West Springfield *# Wellesley Wrentham Yarmouth	OHIO Berea Euclid *+ Fairlawn Fairview Park Hillsboro Lakewood Mayfield Village Parma University Heights Yellow Springs
COLORADO Boulder Denver **	CONNECTICUT Granby	OKLAHOMA Edmond
DELAWARE Elsmere	MICHIGAN East Lansing *# Flushing Forsyth Township Livonia *# Milford Troy West Bloomfield	OREGON Eugene
ILLINOIS Aurora Chicago Franklin Park Highland Park Hoffman Estates Lakewood Lake Zurich Lincolnshire Oak Park Palatine *# Park Forest Rockton Schaumburg Wauconda *#	MINNESOTA Bloomington Cottage Grove *# Minneapolis *# Roseville *# St. Louis Park ** St. Paul South Shores	PENNSYLVANIA Abbington Township Bethlehem ** McAdoo Milcreek Township *# Murraysville ** Packer Township ** Plum Westchester
INDIANA Hammond	MISSOURI Lake Winnebago **	VERMONT Burlington
IOWA Waterloo *# Iowa City *#	MONTANA Missoula *#	WASHINGTON King Co *#
KANSAS Wellington	NEW JERSEY Berlin *# Bernardsville Bloomingdale *# Cresskill Dumont ** East Windsor * Evesham Fair Lawn ** Galloway *# Gibbsboro Hanover Kinnelon *# Medford Lake Old Bridge Ringwood River Edge *# Tenafly *# Vernon West Milford Woodcliff Lake *#	WISCONSIN Casey Kenosha *#
KENTUCKY Georgetown *#	MAINE Lebanon	<i>* newly added since original list of 7/9/91 + in process # report of previous activity; bears further watching/investigation</i>
MAINE Lebanon	MARYLAND Prince Georges Co *# Montgomery Co *# Howard Co *#	<i>Source: CSPP</i>

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