

Briefs



LAKE CITY CC PLANS CO-OP

Lake City Community College would like to hear from courses interested in being summer co-operative training sites next summer.

All programs in golf course operations, landscape technology, and turf equipment management require co-op.

The school is looking for quality sites that will provide meaningful training for the students.

They are asked to notify the school immediately of how many golf course, landscape, and/or golf mechanic students their sites could effectively handle.

The students will be making the employer contacts for site selection.

More than 20 golf course mechanics will be available for employment starting in May.

People should contact John R. Piersol, chairman; Division of Golf Course Operations; Landscape Operations; Lake City Community College; Rt. 3, Box 7; Lake City, Fla. 32055.

USGA ADDS WESTERN AGRONOMIST

Patrick Gross has joined the U.S. Golf Association Green Section as an agronomist in its Western Region office.

Gross, head superintendent at Industry (Calif.) Hills Golf Course's Eisenhower Course the past three years, will work with Western Region Director Larry Gilhuly and agronomist Paul Vermeulen out of the Pebble Beach, Calif. office.

Gross will make Turf Advisory Service visits in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

"With the growth in that area of the country, we decided we needed a third person for that office," said USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow.

Gross was also superintendent at Shandin Hills Golf Course in San Bernadino and assistant superintendent at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights.

He has a bachelor's degree in ornamental horticulture from California State Polytechnic University.

INDEPENDENT STUDIES SOUGHT

Golf Course News is calling for leads on turf runoff research that has been done or is planned at golf courses.

In order to add substance and bulk to the body of scientific knowledge, we are asking superintendents and others to let us know about any research they know about.

Please contact Stuart Cohen at Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., 11141 Georgia Ave., Suite 208, Wheaton, Md. 20902.

Cohen will follow up any lead and compile the results to be summarized in a report for the industry.

Cohen said he has discovered instances of isolated, limited studies of golf course runoff or leaching. Usually, those studies are never publicly released, he said.

TPC at Sawgrass wins players' vote

By Vern Putney

Christmas came a few hours early for Fred Klauk, superintendent at Sawgrass' TPC Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra, Fla., an apprehensive stop on the PGA Tour late last March.

Tour pros, extremely critical in 1990 of the layout's somewhat ragged appearance, in December voted it the best conditioned resort course on the 1991 tour schedule.

News of this turnabout, relayed to Klauk at a TPC Christmas party at nearby Marsh Landing Country Club, was cause for further celebration, and stamped Klauk, his staff and TPC as the comeback story of the year.

First to learn of the glad tidings were Klauk's wife, Peggy, and PGA Commissioner Deane Beman, an annual holiday attendee. Beman shared Klauk's elation. He had huddled with Klauk to discuss redemption

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Best golf course builder: Story, page 27
Best resort developer: Story, page 45

and regained reputation soon after that bleak 1990 period when Sawgrass was torn apart verbally by the players and flayed in the press.

Hard as it was not to share such good news, Klauk held off announcement until Sawgrass' "family" gathering the next day.

The balloting by mail and phone was dramatic. With five minutes to deadline in the voting, Larry Mize had moved Callaway Gardens Country Club of Pine Mountain, Ga., into a tie.

Then came a call from Wayne Levi of New Hartford, N.Y., 1990 PGA Tour Player of the Year. "Sawgrass," he said emphatically. "It was in perfect shape, from tees through fair-

ways through greens.

"The practice area was immaculate, the practice tees better than many tour fairways." Levi did not play Callaway Gardens because of Ryder Cup conflict.

Early poll results showed well-scattered course support, but it finally came down to a two-course race.

Doral Country Club, in Miami; TPC of Scottsdale in Phoenix, Ariz., TPC at Las Colinas in Irving, Texas, and TPC at The Woodlands in Woodlands, Tex., shared third place in the voting.

Other courses favored were Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Kingsmills Golf Club, Williamsburg, Va.; Innisbrook Resort, Tarpon Springs, Fla., and TPC at Star Pass, Tucson, Ariz.

Klauk and his crew of 52 forged perhaps the biggest turnaround in tour history.

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Views are magnificent, but the challenge most difficult for the maintenance crew at the Resort at Squaw Creek in Olympic Valley, Calif.

Squaw Creek living under no-chem rules

By Doug Saunders

The first hints of winter have hit the High Sierra. For Carl Rygg, head superintendent of the Resort at Squaw Creek, the time has come to put his game plan into motion.

The challenge for Rygg is unique in golf course maintenance. He must develop a systematic plan to protect the grasses of this new course from the ravages of the difficult winter weather at this mountain setting. His task is even more difficult because he must develop a system that won't have the normal tools at a superintendent's disposal—fungicides and herbicides.

The Resort at Squaw Creek is a Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course that opened last September in Olympic Valley, Calif. Located at 6,200 feet at the base of Squaw Valley USA, the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics, the 18-hole layout winds up onto tree-lined mountainsides and flows out onto an Alpine meadow that contains many acres of fragile wetlands.

The valley receives an average of 300 inches of snow a year and from September until early June can see everything from monsoonal rains to the heaviest snowstorms imaginable.

In securing permits to build the course, the developers, Perini Land and Development, went through countless hearings over seven years.

Permits needed to be secured from two local boards, one regional board, and the

Army Corps of Engineers. The persistent concern at every stage was the effect of any runoff of nutrients and pesticides into the creek that flowed through the proposed course site.

The Sierra Club filed suit over the validity of the Cape Cod Study findings as they pertained to a mountain environment, and obtained the stipulation that a complete simulation for that study be performed on the site. The developers had this done over three years at a cost of \$500,000.

After 27 plan changes and numerous hearings, final approval was obtained in 1988. But the restrictions imposed made the Resort at Squaw Creek an immense maintenance challenge.

"The final approvals by the planning commission set up a Chemical Application Management Plan (CHAMP) that explicitly controls all phases of golf course maintenance," Rygg said. "Their intention was to put specific controls upon the course that would protect the creek and not adversely affect the natural aquifer of the meadow."

But in its hopes to be thorough, the board obtained input from one source on what it would take to maintain a course with minimum chemical use in a mountain environment. The suggestions of this one source became the rules for the Resort at Squaw Creek.

Every phase of maintenance, from types of

fertilizers to the weekly water used, has been spelled out and must be adhered to at all times. This makes for a very restrictive program under which Rygg must work. The use of herbicides is limited to only Roundup, but this nonspecific herbicide is virtually useless in developing a championship quality golf course, Rygg said.

"The CHAMP program — which is 12 volumes in length and contains five chapters of specific stipulations — also allows me to use MCPP-2,4-D but only after I have tried every feasible method of weed eradication I can," Rygg said. "I plan to use a large labor force to hand-pick weeds. But if I have a force of 25 workers and a weed problem continues, I must hire more workers in an attempt to eradicate it. The cost of such programs is not of concern, as is pointed out in the CHAMP."

"It is only at the time that a weed problem becomes bad enough to affect the interest of the paying customer to play, and it can be shown that severe economic hardship to the golf course operators has occurred, and I have done everything possible manually, that I could go back to the review board to obtain permission to use Weed Be Gone."

The CHAMP also names specific brands of products that may be used for fertilizers, herbicides and fungicides. This takes away the option of shopping for the most economical product, again making normal maintenance

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Wadsworth

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staff and pay attention to detail," Kubly said. "I'm always happy to be included on a bid list with them. It lets us know that the developer wants a quality job. A local contractor's bid could blow us both out of the water, but the local contractor wouldn't deliver what Wadsworth and we do."

Cotter returned the praise.

"Landscapes Unlimited is an excellent contractor and is doing some outstanding work, too," he said.

Lincoln, Neb.-based Landscapes Unlimited received 9 percent of the architects' vote. The staff includes 80 full-time and another 40 to 80 part-time employees. Among them are five project managers, 15 construction superintendents and 20 shapers.

"Very simply, we try to deliver quality," Kubly said. "We have a strong back-up staff to help out on projects throughout the country."

Despite the slow economy, revenues are expected to exceed \$20 million this year.

"We've been barraged by people looking for work," Kubly said. "We're working at 95 percent of capacity. But a lot of our work is in the Northeast, which is being hit hard by the recession. Subcontractors up there have been offering to work at some very low prices."

Landscapes Unlimited averages six to 10 course openings annually, Kubly said. Openings in 1991 included Woodloch Pines Golf Club, Hawley, Pa.; Uwharrie Point, Albemarle, N.C.; Eagle Run West Country Club, Omaha, Neb.; Jackson Country Club, Jackson, Tenn.; Huntsville Country Club, Huntsville, Ala.;

Windtree Golf Course, Nashville, Tenn.; Sunset West Golf Club, Raleigh, N.C.; and The Oaks Golf Clubs, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

Others under construction are Bentcreek Golf Club, Lancaster, Pa.; Glenmore Golf Club, Charlottesville, Va.; Glenmaura Golf Club, Scranton, Pa.; Hyatt Golf Course, San Antonio, Texas; Sapphire Country Club, Cashiers N.C.; and Wildwing Plantation, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Kubly, a registered landscape architect, received his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1971 from the University of Wisconsin. He worked in the golf course construction and design field five years before opening Landscapes Unlimited.

"The biggest change I've seen is the amount of work," Kubly said. "When I first got out of school, I thought all the course work would dry up in a few years. There has been a lot more work than I ever thought there would be."

Guettler & Sons Inc. was the choice of 5 percent of the architects. The Fort Pierce, Fla. firm has served primarily the Southeastern United States since 1954. Peter F. Guettler is chairman of the board.

Guettler course openings in 1991 included the Fairwinds Course at St. Lucie County Golf Course, Ft. Pierce; Valkaria Airport Public Golf Course, Palm Bay, Fla.; and Windsor Golf Course, Vero Beach, Fla.

Courses under construction are Northport at the Lake, Lake Ozark, Mo.; Old Tabby Golf Links, Spring Island, S.C.; and Sandridge, Indian River County, Fla.

Sawgrass takes Tour's resort honors

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The course that Nature had savaged with winter wind and storm fury was attacked and renovated by man on a major scale. Needed changes were defined. An earlier end to daily play prior to the tourney was deemed advisable. Shutting down the course the Monday before tournament practice was a practical stroke.



Fred Klauk

The course was closed in the fall for winter seeding. The week's shutdown permitted uninterrupted germination of the grass.

A tree-trimming program added course sunlight.

Three months before the late March event, three persons were added to the workforce.

Ball marks on all greens were seeded. There were no fairway divots. Sawgrass was ready.

Greg Norman, who had led the chorus of criticism in 1990, this time observed, "Perfect."

Fellow Australian and winner Steve Elkington said, "I don't think there's a harder course in the world to play than this one when there is this kind of wind (42 miles per hour the second day), but course conditions couldn't be better."

Klauk, who said his mission in 1991 was to make the course the best ever, did just that in a rousing vote of confidence from those most

knowledgeable and most demanding — tour pros.

"We were very focused the entire year and accomplished our goal," he said.

He cited this "team" for making it possible: Bob Clarkson, assistant on the Stadium course; Gene Baldwin, assistant at the Valley course; chief mechanic Mark Sanford, landscape assistant Lee Rowe and office manager Cathy Macormic.

Gary Wilder and Callaway Gardens' Mountain View layout, most testing of the resort's 63 holes, made a remarkable run for tour laurels. Time wasn't on their side.

Wilder, superintendent at Harbour Town and a veteran of 10 tourney events, was contacted last March by Callaway Gardens officials. The Buick Southern Open, a 27-year fixture at Green Island Country Club in Columbus, Ga., had been switched to Callaway Gardens Sept. 26-29.

Wilder was offered the job of whipping the course into tournament shape. Bunkers were to have priority. Wilder, who had much sand experience, arrived early in May and launched renovation operations.

The course was closed for the summer.

Wilder rebuilt bunkers that contained from one to two feet of sand. Greens received major stripping and fumigating attention, and fairways were sprayed heavily with a plant growth regulator that encouraged grass to grow from side to side and thicker. The ball set up well as the result of this concentrated treatment.

Pros responded favorably to the intense course face-lifting, as witness the flood of voting backing.

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