

EPA report

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gest water pollution problem we face, and it is everybody's problem," said LaJuana Wilcher, EPA assistant administrator for water, adding that the overuse of lawn fertilizer and pesticides is part of the problem.

Other points made in the report are:

- The most commonly reported pollutants affecting rivers, lakes and estuaries are nutrients, silt, oxygen-demanding materials, pathogens and metals. Agricultural runoff accounted for more than half the pollution in rivers and lakes, while municipal discharges were the leading cause of estuarine pollution.

- The country has lost more than half its original wetlands and continues losing them at a "significant rate." Approximately 2.6 million acres disappeared from the mid-1970s through mid-1980s. Residential and commercial land development were the leading reasons for the loss. Agriculture and resource extraction were other causes.

- Underground storage tanks, septic tanks, municipal landfills, agricultural activities and abandoned hazardous waste sites were identified as the major threats to ground water. Nitrates, metals, pesticides, petroleum and volatile organic compounds are of concern.

- Nearly 1,000 pollution-caused fish kills, totalling 26 million fish, were reported in 42 states. More than 300 beach closures occurred in 23 states.

Forty-seven states and territories noted 998 fishing advisories and 50 fishing bans. PCBs, pesticides, dioxin, mercury, organics and metals were the most common causes.

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Valley Lodge Golf Club recovering from Christmas flood

By Vern Putney

SIMONTON, Texas—Flood waters up to 10-feet deep all but drowned Valley Lodge Golf Club here Christmas Eve, and another storm a week later made New Year's Eve no time for celebration.

But the Fletcher family has surmounted these setbacks.

Owner-manager Melissa, husband-club professional Browne and father-course superintendent Jack—all buoyed by financial disaster relief from the Small Business Association—are on track in a massive reconstruction effort that may have the new nine-

hole course in playing shape by mid-August.

"Bulldozers are everywhere," noted Jack. "Destroyed greens have been replaced by elevated greens as we seek higher ground. Hole and terrain layout have been altered as we take the high road in the 160 acres available. We're going to end up with a much better course. Up to 30 per cent of the SBA loan will go toward greens and tee box elevation."

The senior Fletcher's tone is far different from the dismal, spirit-dampening days following the devastation, when the Brazos River rose up in raging wrath to deluge eastern Texas courses after heavy rains.

The Fletchers felt particularly buffeted. They had purchased the course a month earlier. Melissa, who had been marketing director and operations manager of The Downs Race Course in Albuquerque, N. M., must have felt race horse connection a far less risky venture after such total destruction.

Now, as the Texas refrain goes, "There seldom is heard a discouraging word, and the skies are not cloudy all day."

All signs are positive, she assures. The former 2,400-yard layout will measure nearer 3,000 yards, and she hinted expansion to 18 holes in the near future.

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