

Experts suggest students should explore alternative turf careers

By Peter Blais

One of the best options for turf graduates having problems finding entry-level golf jobs is landscape architecture.

Landscape architecture is a steadily growing field that suffers from a good-old-boy-with-a-pickup-truck image problem, according to John Piersol, coordinator of Lake City (Fla.) College's golf course operations program.

"The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has done a terrific job of upgrading

the superintendent's image," Piersol said. "People picture Jack Nicklaus and BMWs when they think about golf careers and want to be a part of it."

"Landscape architects are professionally trained and also deal with management, pesticide, water and other environmental issues. But they still have that image problem they have to overcome."

Image aside, landscape architecture also pays well.

Graduates of Lake City's 2 1/2-

year associates in landscape technology program start in the \$20,000 to \$23,000 per-year range (about the same as assistant superintendents) to care for trees, flowers and shrubs at resorts, Piersol said.

Directors of landscape make \$30,000 to \$55,000 yearly. Only the high-five-to-low-six-figure salaries earned by the handful of superintendents at the nation's top clubs aren't attainable by landscape architects, unless they go into business for themselves, he

added.

"And a landscape architect can be a hero by just adding a little color to the surroundings. Expectations are much higher for a superintendent. If the course isn't perfect, like what they see on television, people complain. With landscape architects, they don't really know what to expect," Piersol said.

Sports turf management is another growing field, although it has suffered some due to municipal budget cutbacks in recent

years, Willoughby Golf Club superintendent Kevin Downing noted.

Superintendent openings also exist overseas, particularly in Southeast Asia. Piersol said he could place a half-dozen assistant construction superintendents there almost immediately.

"The problem is you have to be very mobile," Downing said. "And after four or five years there, you don't really have any contacts if you want to get a job back home."

mph, It ne Term Fast.



For maximum width, the Toro Fairway Aerator has a coring swath of over five feet. That gives you an aerating capacity of 61,000 square feet an hour at maximum speed.

A choice of two coring patterns is available. For increased drainage and reduced soil compaction, select the 5.25"x6" coring pattern with depth of up to 5". For better control of thatch and reduced compaction, select the 3.5"x3.0" coring pattern with a depth of up to 3".

The Toro Fairway Aerator not only redefines the term fast, it also redefines productivity, depth quality and durability. Together they give fairways and other large turf areas the same quality aeration previously limited to greens. For a demonstration of the new Toro Fairway Aerator, call your local Toro distributor or write to the address below.

TORO

The Professionals
That Keep You Cutting.

Frustrated Vt. developer may run for governor

By Peter Blais

After eight years of frustration over his inability to get a golf course construction permit, and what he perceives as the anti-business attitude of recent administrations, Sherman Hollow developer Paul Truax will soon decide whether to run for governor of Vermont.

Truax, 56, said he will determine

whether to seek the GOP gubernatorial nomination by late April, after the current legislative session ends. Truax said it will be



Paul Truax

clearer than exactly who else may seek the party's nomination to run against incumbent Democrat Howard Dean.

The Huntington businessman charges the Dean administration with encouraging excessive central and regulatory control, discouraging out-of-state investment, and ignoring the desires of Vermont's people.

"I have been approached by numerous citizens, business and community leaders who share my concerns," Truax said. "They've pledged their support, both personal and financial, if I will make a commitment to run. I'm ready to make that commitment if the clock allows."

A native Vermonter, Truax began his career in engineering and moved on to medical administration. He owned and operated many businesses before embarking on Sherman Hollow, a proposed 18-hole golf course community, hotel and conference center in Huntington.

District and state environmental boards have rejected Truax' applications because of concerns over pesticides, water and erosion.

The most recent setback came at the hands of the state board last fall. Truax requested the board reconsider its position in December and received a hearing in February. He is awaiting a decision.