

BRIEFS



HURRICANE RELIEF SENT

South Florida golf course maintenance employees whose homes were destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Andrew are getting help from their "golf family." The Florida GCSA has established a relief fund. First financial shot was fired by the Palm Beach GCSA, which donated \$1,000. West Virginia's GCSA matched that. The Carolinas and Georgia GCSAs were as quick to offer assistance. Relief fund checks payable to the FGCSA should be sent to 1760 Northwest Pine Lake Drive, Stuart, Fla., 34994; phone number is 407-692-9349.

LAKE CONFERENCE HELD

CINCINNATI — The North American Lake Management Society's (NALMS) 12th annual International Symposium, geared to protecting and enhancing surface water quality, will be held here Nov. 2-7. While many of the workshop topics will be highly technical, there will be many presentations for volunteers who monitor water quality. The symposium comes during the 20-year Clean Water Act, which is under review and revision by Congress. More information is available from NALMS, One Progress Blvd., Box 27, Alachua, Fla. 32615; 904-462-2554.

COURSECO NABS RODGERS

FRESNO, Calif. — Gary Rodgers, superintendent at Riverside Golf Course and former board member of the Central California Chapter of the GCA of California, has been named director of maintenance and construction for CourseCo, Inc. Based in Fresno, he will continue as superintendent at Riverside. He will plan and oversee maintenance and construction at all CourseCo-managed facilities.

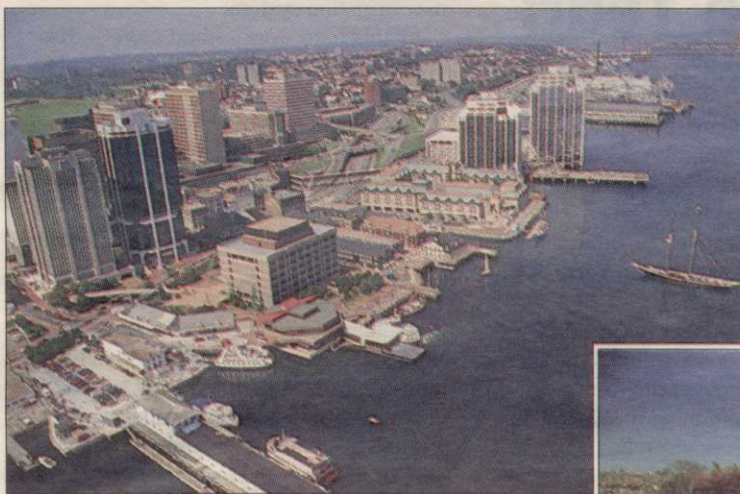
Rodgers has been superintendent and agronomist at Riverside since 1989.

HAYES GCSAA EDUCATION MANAGER

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has named Alan Hayes education manager for technical training. Hayes will conduct and refine spray technician seminars and help develop other topics for the organization's technical training.

TAAGEN HIRED AT CORDILLERA

EDWARDS, Colo. — Cordillera has named Timothy T. Taagen superintendent, according to Gerry Engle, project general manager. Taagen will be responsible for all facets of construction, operation and maintenance for the 7,500-yard, par-72 Hale Irwin-designed course, which is scheduled to open with all 18 holes in 1994. Taagen, 28, has worked for three of the top 50 courses in the country. Most recently, he was superintendent at Green Gables Country Club in Denver. Prior to this, he was Assistant Superintendent at Cherry Hills Country Club in Denver.



Scenic Halifax (above), sitting on the east coast of Nova Scotia, is the site for the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association's 44th Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. Halifax, itself, is home to some wonderful golf courses, including Ashburn Golf Course (right). The event, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, is being held in the World Trade and Convention Center and Halifax Metro Centre. Despite the time of year, weather is not normally a problem in Halifax. Most all of the major hotels, the convention center and shopping malls are connected by elevated "pedways" — enclosed walkways connecting the buildings — that can bring you indoors from the harbour up to Citadel Hill. The Prince George Hotel, the headquarters hotel for the conference, is connected by an underground tunnel to the World Trade and Convention Centre.

By MARK LESLIE

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — The speakers program and attendance is expected to be the best in years, but trade show booths are down for the 44th Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, to be held here Nov. 29-Dec. 2.

According to Vince Gillis, executive director of the sponsoring Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, "We anticipate the attendance will be as good or better than in years" to hear an all-star lineup of speakers.

But the economy "has taken a bite this year," he said.

"We're looking at the neighborhood of 50- to 60-percent capacity. We average 25,000

net square feet. Last year in Toronto we had 23,008 square feet. We were sold out, full to capacity. Exhibitors were hanging from the rafters.

"This year we were banking on 18,000 square feet and we're at 10,000."

Gillis blamed the registrations on the economy and distant Atlantic Coast location.

"Even friends of many years instead of taking six or eight booths are taking four or five. One takes two and he's taking one," he said.

Gillis said daily attendance may be down from previous years, but full-time attendance will be greater than normal — drawn by the talks by such notables as Drs. Paul Reike of

Michigan State University, Tom Watschke of Penn State University, Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Massachusetts and Robert Carrow of the University of Georgia, U.S. Golf Association Green Section National Director Jim Snow, and architect Thomas McBroom.

Gillis feels "a sleeper in terms of interest" will be a panel discussion Wednesday morning on where golf is headed. The panel will include Canadian PGA Pro Linden Garrow; club manager Dick Grimm of The Royal Canadian Golf Association, who has run the Canadian Open for a number of years; Canadian GSA President Paul White; and Golf

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North of the border, Canada draws supers to 'learning' show



Photos courtesy of Nova Scotia Tourism & Culture

HydroJect's influences debated

The following story has been reprinted from the MET GCSA Newsletter, with permission of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association.

By PAT LUCAS

Not since the introduction of the triplex greensmower has a single piece of equipment generated as much interest as the Toro HydroJect (HJ). Its initial attraction was that it allows you to aerify with only minimum surface disturbance. But after a year-and-a-half on the market, what most superintendents are more interested in knowing is, "Does it really work?"

Though, admittedly, there's still a lot to be learned, I and several other area superintendents who have used the HJ extensively can shed some light on the inner workings — and the pros and cons — of the machine.

My hope is that they'll spare you hours of trial-and-error when operating the Toro HydroJect on your course.

Bob Alonzi, CGCS, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N.Y.

Objective: We're a heavily played club, so we get a lot of soil compaction—particularly in June, July, and August. Our prime objective with the HydroJect was to try to alleviate that compaction without inconveniencing our membership.

Use: Last year, we did all the greens twice

during the summer and once late fall. The fall treatment was intended to improve drainage during the winter.

This year, we went out in July and again just recently to alleviate any stress.

Results: The HJ, combined with other practices, such as summer patch control, and spring and fall coring—does seem to help combat the effects of heavy play on our small greens. It's hard to tell, though, whether our fall treatment did improve drainage.

Comments: A concern I have with long-term use of the HJ is soil separation below the surface. This situation should be carefully monitored. I don't think the HJ replaces coring. Coring allows you to modify the soil by incorporating amendments into the holes. I think, for now, it's best to stick to a program that combines conventional coring with deep aerification and HJ use during the summer. If nothing else, this type of program will offer a better balance in fighting compaction.

John Gallagher, Racebrook Country Club, Orange, Conn.

Objective: Our greens suffer from soil compaction, which has created puddling, reduced infiltration, and shallow rooting. To remedy some of these problems—with only minimal disruption to the playing surface—we began using the HydroJect last year.

Use: We do some of our problem greens once a week during the season—not necessar-

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Int'l experts share wisdom at symposium

By PETER BLAIS

A record number of scientific research papers, many from abroad, will be presented at the 7th International Turfgrass Research Society meeting scheduled for July 18-24 at The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Fla.

The 160 accepted papers is almost double the previous high of 98 presented at the 1989 Tokyo conference. About one-third of this year's presenters are from outside the United States.

"The goal is to exchange information regarding turfgrass research on an international basis every four years," said Toro Co. consultant Jim Watson, one of the organizers.

"It has been dominated by the United States in the past. But each time the international segment has become more and more important."

The meeting is being divided into two symposiums, according to program chairman Bob

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HydroJect

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ily the entire green, sometimes just the walk-off areas or other areas we know are highly compacted.

Results: With multiple blasts, we've gotten down eight to 10 inches. Adding a cupful of wetting agent into the filter housing seemed to help loosen the soil.

We know we're getting improved oxygen flow to the soil because greens that had two-inch root systems measured about four inches a month after an HJ treatment. Of course, the Vet-Drain has spurred even more vigorous root growth—about six inches in depth.

Comments: For severe soil problems, the HJ can't replace core aeration. Coring enables you to gradually improve the soil structure, and the plugs brought to the surface allow for soil-seed contact in the overseeding process. I also feel the HJ is not the cure-all for severe drainage problems. We've blasted several poor drainage areas 10 inches deep, and the water still sits there after a heavy rain.

Joe Camberato, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, N.Y.

Objective: I was looking to improve the oxygen exchange, root development, and water movement on my greens. I also wanted to

alleviate any surface compaction created by using a greens roller.

I decided to give try HydroJect because it's able to produce a hole deeper than conventionally, yet doesn't disturb the surface.

Use: Last year, we ran the HJ once in late spring and again in the fall.

Results: After our spring treatment — by the end of July — I saw considerable improvement in my root systems. I had problems with the greens drying out after treatment, but I was aerifying in the middle of a very hot summer. So I put wetting agent down, and that seemed to control the moisture loss.

I skipped my regularly sched-

uled core aeration in the fall and used the HJ instead. The HJ treatments definitely gave us better water movement. In fact, I had water movement down deeper into the green than I had roots.

Comments: We had a good season, but I'm not convinced yet that HJ treatments are substitute for core aeration. I plan to core aerify this fall.

Pat Lucas, CGCS, Innis Arden Golf Club/Earth Works, Old Greenwich, Conn.

Problem: Poor water quality, such as high concentrations of algae, can cause the HJ's on-board 5 micron filtration system to plug and shut down the machine. A built-in safety device

shuts down the unit when water pressure falls below 20 PSI.

Solution: Last August, Toro came out with an auxiliary portable prefiltration system—the Ametek #HD-10—that goes in-line at the water source and filters the water before it reaches the machine. With its 25 micron rope-type cartridge, this system handles even the most difficult water quality problems.

Problem: Taking the HJ's filter housings apart to change or flush filters is often difficult.

Solution: Coat both the housing treads and rubber "O" ring with silicone. Also note that Toro's

metal spanner filter wrench is a real knuckle-buster. Much better, we've found, is the full-circle plastic wrench available from Ametek.

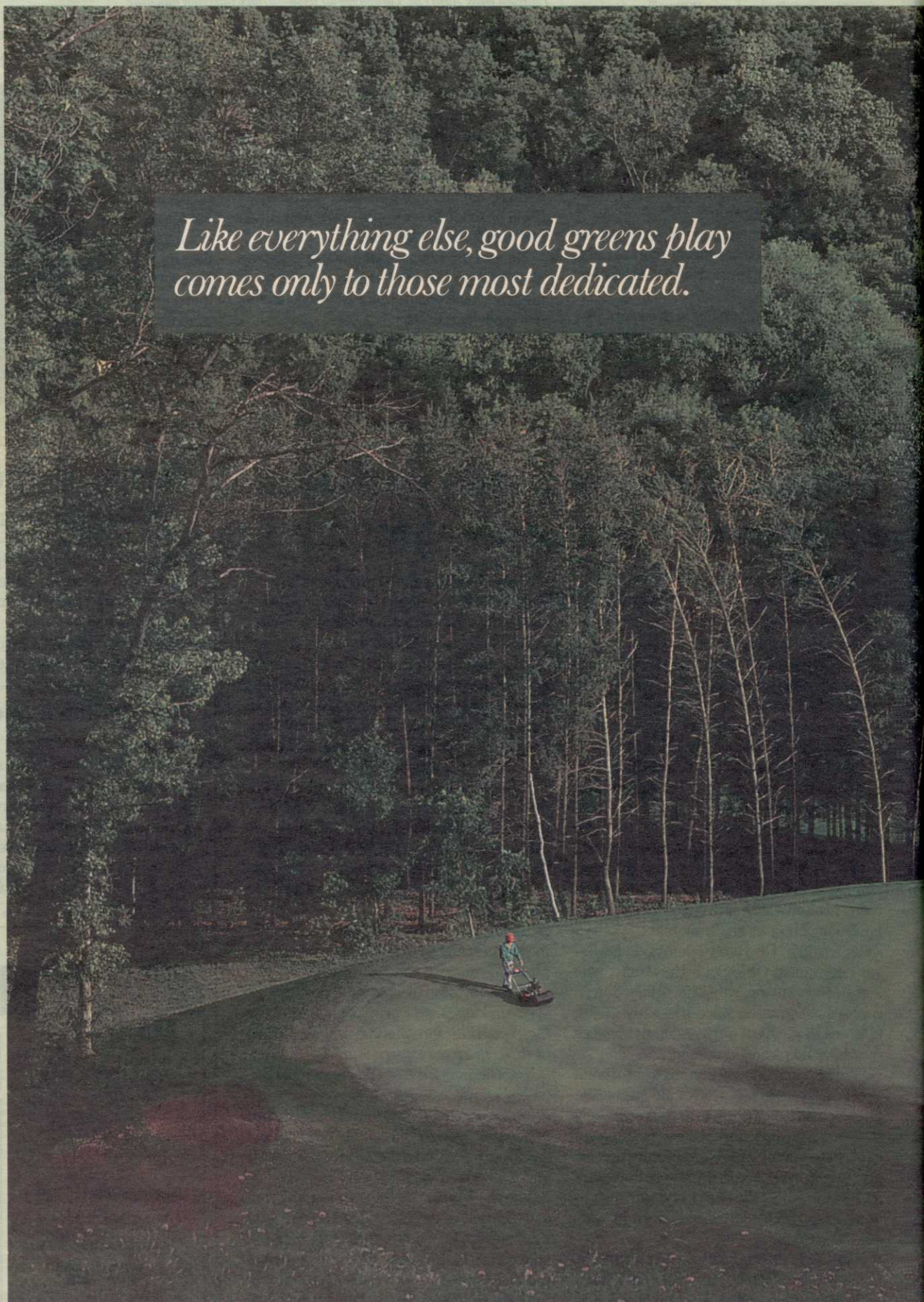
Problem: Nozzle wear diminishes the depth of penetration, which runs four to seven inches, depending on soil conditions.

Solution: A new nozzle's diameter equals a #53 drill bit. Anything larger indicates wear.

Problem: The accumulator tends to lose pressure when the HJ isn't used for long periods of time.

Solution: Be sure to have the HJ checked and recharged when you're ready to put it to use after a winter in the shop.

Like everything else, good greens play comes only to those most dedicated.



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Int'l symposium

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Carrow, a turfgrass professor at the University of Georgia.

The first is characterization of sports fields — developing standards and objective measurements that can be used to determine the quality of a certain facility. For golf, Carrow said, that might mean coming up with a stimpmeter-type measurement to determine proper backspin on a ball struck to the green or how far a ball should roll through a fairway. Those figures could be used to develop a new course or improve an existing one, he added.

The second symposium will deal with pesticide and nutrient fate research.

The large number of papers will likely require concurrent sessions, Watson said.

Approximately 25 keynote speakers will present their research on narrower topics dealing with integrated disease and insect management, Carrow said.

"The idea is to determine where we are at in terms of turfgrass research and what are the holes that need filling," he added.

All the papers will be published in the International Turfgrass Research Society Journal, which will be available for about \$50.

The registration fee is \$425 for all events including the welcoming buffet, beach party, mid-week turf tours and banquet. Spouse and children's programs are available. For more information contact George Snyder, University of Florida — EREC, P.O. Box 8003, Belle Glade, Fla. 33430 or telephone 407-996-3062.