

Wastewater symposium organized by golf industry groups

By PETER BLAIS

The U.S. Golf Association and other golf industry groups will sponsor a golf course wastewater symposium March 4-5, 1993 in Newport Beach, Calif.

The goal is to provide architects, builders, developers, irrigation specialists, municipal and county officials and others with information regarding the availability and cost of using or converting to effluent to irrigate their courses, according to USGA Research Director Mike Kenna.

"It should be very helpful for those deciding whether to use effluent on a new

course or to retrofit a system to accept effluent because regular water is scarce or just too expensive," Kenna said.

The first day will follow a conference format with a host of speakers discussing why courses should use effluent; regulations, ordinances and legal liabilities; wastewater quality, treatment and delivery systems; and the effects of wastewater on the turfgrass/soil environment.

Among the speakers will be Dr. James Watson, vice president, The Toro Co.; Dr. Robert N. Carrow, agronomist, University of Georgia; Garrett Gill, golf course archi-

tect; James Crook of Camp, Dresser & McKee Inc.; Anne Townsend Thomas, partner, attorney, Best, Best & Krieger; Dr. Ali Harivandi, University of California; Dr. Marilyn Yates, groundwater quality specialist, University of California, Riverside; Dr. Charles F. Mancino, associate professor, University of Arizona; and Jim Moore, director, USGA Green Section/Mid-Continent Region.

Dr. Charles Peacock, associate professor at North Carolina State University, will kick off the second day with a talk on the advantages and disadvantages of wastewa-

ter use. That will be followed by a series of case studies from various parts of the country and an afternoon field tour of a sewage treatment plant and two golf courses.

The cost of the two-day session will be \$190 including two lunches and the field tours. Room rates at the conference site, the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel, will be \$110.

Others involved in sponsoring the symposium include the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders Association of America and National Golf Foundation.

Rotors winning supporters, saving water

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Morgan predicted.

"Water quality and price are driving it," said Buckner Inc. Marketing Manager Vahan Bagdasarian. "Here in California, water is a particularly big concern. Part-circles have a big place here."

With potable water getting scarcer and more expensive, reclaimed water is often seen as the golf industry's savior. On the plus side, effluent has usually been screened, removing much of the sand and debris found in fresh water that can clog sprinkler heads. And effluent is plentiful. Local water treatment systems are often happy to sign on golf courses to help them get rid of their excess liquid.

But effluent does have drawbacks. Chief among them is the

Most rotor manufacturers are using diaphragm materials that stand up better to reclaimed water.

high nutrient levels that allow bacteria and algae to flourish. This leads to health concerns, which often result in regulations requiring ef-

fluent to be directed away from certain areas in and around golf courses, such as neighbors' lawns and common walkways. Reclaimed water can also foul freshwater streams and ponds if runoff is allowed to drain into them.

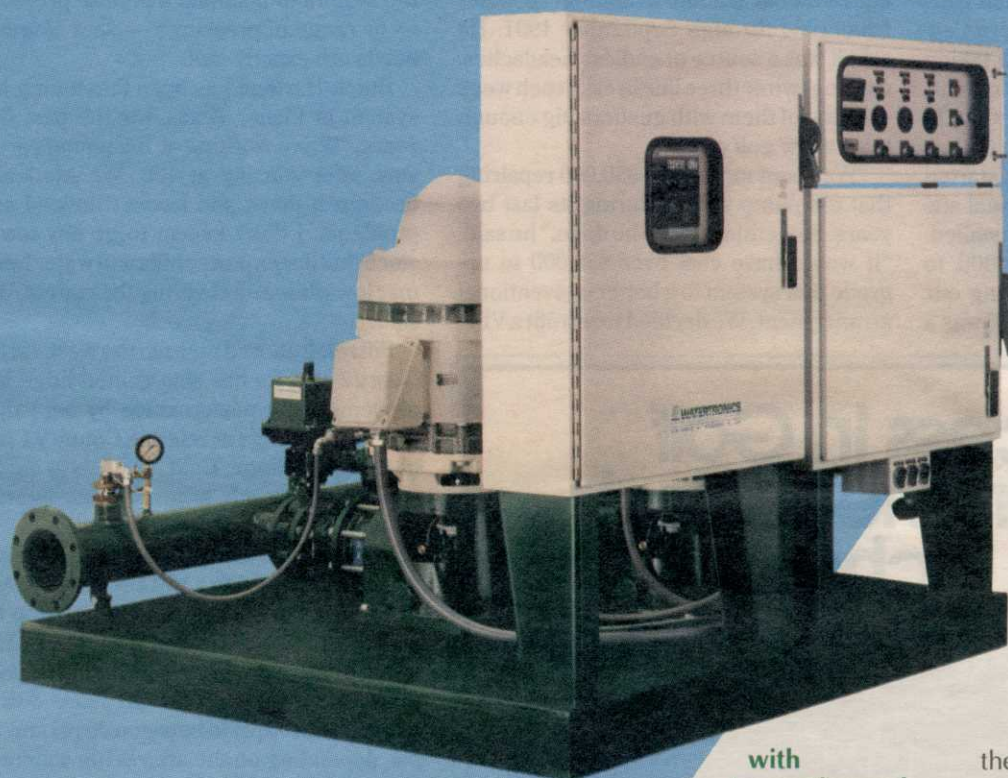
Algae is a particular problem at those courses where reclaimed water can be stored in open ponds, allowing the pond plants to flourish.

New rotors have been designed with larger passageways to allow algae to pass through without clogging the unit, Salter said.

Most rotor manufacturers are using diaphragm materials that stand up better to reclaimed water.

To indicate they disperse effluent, rotors are usually colored purple and bear an international symbol for non-potable water [such as a drinking glass inside a circle with a line running through it].

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