

"How nice would it be to have every ball mark fixed and every divot filled all summer long? How nice would it be to have a whole bunch of really nice swings? All it costs the club is a meal."

— Ben Kern, head pro at The National Golf Club

Course conditions benefit from innovative jr. program

By MARK LESLIE

Veteran golf pro Ben Kern has found a way to mix golf course maintenance with a junior golf teaching program. And he has issued a challenge to fellow golf pros across North America to do the same.

Kern, of The National Golf Club in Woodbridge, Ontario, rated by some as the best golf course in Canada, started his junior program in 1981.

"We takes kids who are keen,

hungry and motivated and put them in a full-emergence program," Kern said.

For five weeks in the summer, the dozen or so 12- to 18-year-olds spend most weekdays at The National. It costs them nothing.

From 7:30 to 10 a.m. they are taught by Kern or assistant pro Doug Hastie, a junior program graduate himself. That is followed by individual instruction or practice until noon, when they lunch at the club. After lunch, the youths

work three hours fixing ball marks and filling divots on the course. And if members are off the course in late afternoon, the youths can play the course free.

Kern, in a radio interview, recently challenged other golf courses to begin their own, similar junior programs.

"There's no reason why it can't happen at every club in Canada or the United States," Kern said. "Golf courses get complacent in their microcosms. They don't

want to take that much time out. But the rewards are great.

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Kern said The National budgets \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year for the program.

"That covers the meals and gives the juniors a golf ball for every hour they work. It keeps them in golf balls for the summer. And it teaches them about maintenance, too," he said.

Kern uses the swing method developed by George Knudson when Knudson worked for him at The National. He calls it a "superior" method that produces dramatic results.

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Study: Shade plays key role in golf course architecture

GUELPH, Ontario — A study of radiation levels under various shade trees has yielded a computer model of micro-climates being adapted for use on golf courses to manage water and pesticide use.

According to reasearching landscape architecture and land resource science professors, shade is a key point in golf course design.

Data such as sunlight, temperature, humidity and wind would be collected at the golf course. Coupled with shade and sun patterns at course sites, the model could determine how to modify the micro-environment to reduce need for irrigation water and pesticides.

Tony Gillespie, land resource science professor involved in the study, predicts that within three years a program will be developed that could be used by any golf course.

Wetting agents OK in HydroJect

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Well, the long wait is over — but not before a series of static tests, determining the safety of long-term exposure to wetting agents, was completed.

"We have seen very positive results on isolated dry spots when wetting agents are applied after a water aeration treatment," said Street. "These results are enhanced when the wetting agent is injected directly through the HydroJect 3000.

"Besides helping isolated dry spots, we've seen faster green-up rates in early spring and better overall appearance throughout the summer."



Joseph Bucchanio, Golf Course Supt.
Maplegate Country Club
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International Town & Country Club
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James Brown, Golf Course Superintendent
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