

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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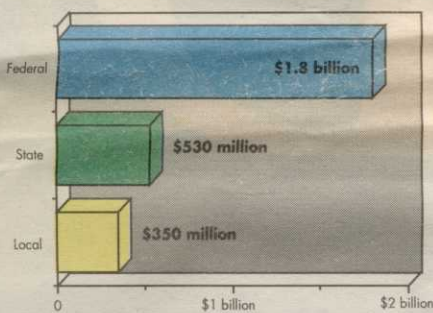
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Critics assail anti-growth advocate

Experts question Klein's methods, motives and results

By MARK LESLIE

Golf course developers and builders bristle when his name is mentioned. Architects flinch. Scientists snicker. Anti-growth advocates smile.

One thing about Richard Klein, president of Community & Environmental Defense Associates: When asked about him, people do not teeter on the fence.

"He is not fondly mentioned around here,"

said David Locke, vice president of Daft McCune Walker, Inc., a landscape architecture and land planning firm in Maryland.

Milt McCarthy of McCarthy and Associates in Upper Marlboro, Md., said: "In projects we've worked on Klein has professed himself as a geotechnical or ground water hydrology expert. He was involved

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Richard Klein

Legislative progress steadily on the RISE

By HAL PHILLIPS

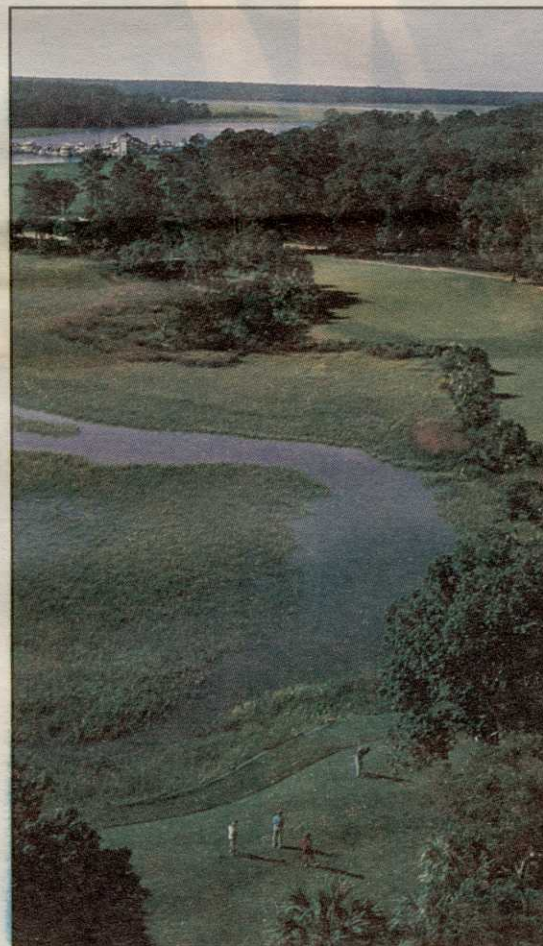
When members of the chemical industry meet this month at the RISE Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., RISE Executive Director Allen James will deliver his share of good news and bad.

The key issue for RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) has been federal and state preemption of pesticide laws. Currently, local communities in half the 50 states can ban any chemical they choose, even if state and federal environmental agencies have signed off.

However, when RISE members meet Sept. 12-14, James will report that 25 states have adopted varying degrees of local preemption statutes, establishing state and federal regulations as the legitimate authorities on issues of chemical safety.

Meanwhile, the effort to amend the Federal Insecti-

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DEVELOPMENTAL SUCCESS STORIES

Willard Byrd's Plantation Course at the Landings community in Georgia is a good example of real-estate-based golf projects that work. For more examples, see page 18.

Drought continues to plague Northwest

By PETER BLAIS

Drought in parts of the Northwest, Rocky Mountains and Midwest has increased maintenance costs and, in the most severe cases, decreased play at golf courses.

Reno, Nev., is one of the hardest hit areas. City-owned Northgate Golf Club depends on runoff passing through a nearby ditch for its irrigation water. But with little rain and virtually no snowpack last winter, the ditch has run dry much of the summer of '92. The club went 27 days without watering its fairways at one point, according to head pro Don Boyle.

"Rounds and revenues are down 50 percent," he said. "We've reduced our fees about 25 percent. But if you don't have the product people are accustomed to,

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Industry analysts mull Landmark decision

By HAL PHILLIPS

While federal authorities ponder the fate of once-mighty Landmark Golf Course Design and Construction, industry analysts go about their business — namely, trying to figure out how the finance world will view golf course projects in light of the latest Landmark decision.

"As an appraiser, I don't see how this would negatively impact value in the long term, but in the short term it definitely hurts," said Larry Hirsh, president of Golf Property Analysts, Inc.

and president of the Society of Golf Appraisers.

"I think the situation has scared away financiers, which we didn't need to begin with," Hirsh continued. "And by eliminating the availability of financing, you've reduced the size of the market, which in turn further reduces the supply of financing."

"Anytime you get negative publicity, it will scare lenders away," added Don Rhodes of Textron Financial. "We're

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Alfonso

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to stay.

It's been six years since that White Paper and perhaps it's time to take another look at this issue. Maybe there are bigger fish to fry than things like: More economical mowing practices or more efficient ways of running the golf car or food concessions.

Maybe there are issues that cut directly to our survival as a business — like the environment, federal and state regulations and ADA.

Maybe there are things that are bigger than our concern over profitability, accountability, and who is paying taxes and who isn't.

Maybe there's a great need for the taxpayer-owned golf courses of this country to upgrade their customer-service attitude and improve their playing conditions — and maybe the NGCOA members

can help that along. Maybe some taxpayer-owned golf course personnel out there can teach NGCOA members a thing or two.

Maybe, just maybe, if we were all in one giant pool of golf courses, we could muster up enough clout to get golf's positive environmental story told as effectively as the opposition has been able to communicate its view.

Maybe we need to sit down and talk. Maybe there is a lot more to pull us together than there is to keep us apart.

I am going to work hard to reopen this discussion with the members of NGCOA, and I would sincerely welcome any input from all of you taxpayer-owned golf facilities.

Shouldn't we find common ground and work together on issues which may well affect the very survival of our livelihoods? Not to mention the great game itself, golf: The game of a lifetime.

Maybe life's too short not to talk about it. What do you think?

Leslie

Continued from page 8

deliberately twisting facts to make a point that isn't supported by the evidence is, to me, inappropriate."

The golf course opponents have their hired gun.

So, where's Paladin?

The golf industry needs its own gunslinger, or perhaps several. Well-educated, articulate, scientists-cum-public-speakers who are good on their feet, armed with truth in their hands, and with wisdom on their lips.

I nominate Dr. Eliot Roberts, recently retired executive director of The Lawn Institute and former head of university turfgrass departments.

If he's unavailable, how about recently retired Drs. Joe Duich and Don Waddington from Penn State, Dr. Henry Indyk from Rutgers and Richard Skogley from the University of Rhode

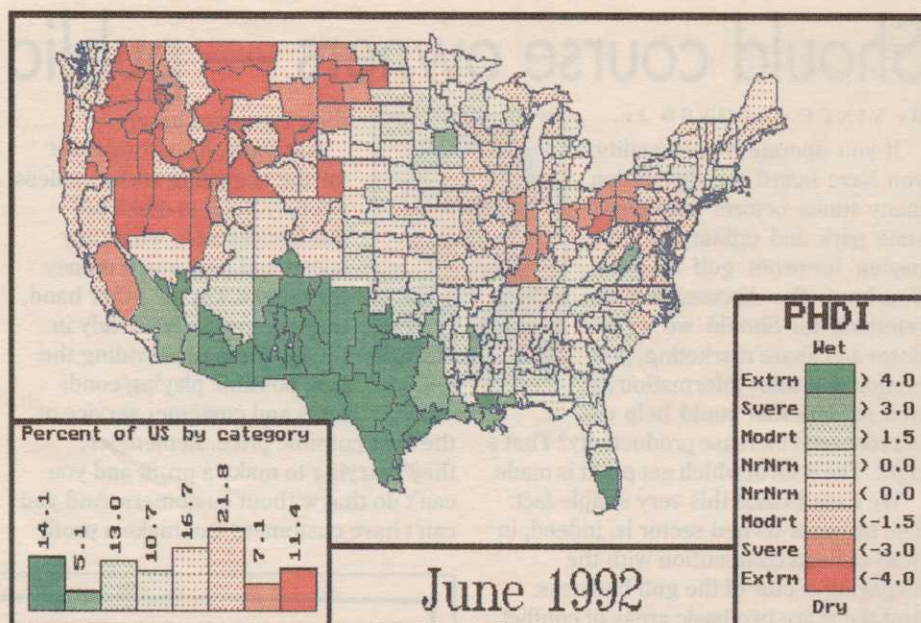
Island? Surely there are other highly regarded scientists — in each region of the country — who could be available.

Ladies and gentlemen, you're out there. You're packing bazookas that would make Silly Putty out of the six-gun toters. You're honest-to-goodness scientists with expertise in the necessary areas. Your life's work has been research to discover truths, not to oppose or to support any one thing, so your testimony would be considered credible and unbiased.

Please step forward. If you don't, your back yard may get a law like that which Klein helped write for Baltimore County. So, what about it?

"I think it's probably the best in the country," Klein said.

"It is almost physically impossible to build a golf course in Baltimore County," countered David Locke, a landscape architect and land planner. "I think it is ridiculous and extremely unreasonable."



Effects of bone-dry May, June still linger

Continued from page 1

they aren't going to come. We can't buy extra water from the city. It simply isn't available."

That isn't the case 50 miles southwest at Edgewood-Tahoe Country Club in Stateline, Nev. Superintendent Steve Seibel has supplemented what little water is available in the course's wells and springs with liquid purchased from the local water company.

While the purchased water and additional wetting agents have added 10 to 15 percent to his maintenance budget, Seibel said the course is in great condition and "we're turning away as many people as we let play."

The same is true in Oregon. While drought and hot weather have reduced yields at the state's major grass seed farms, the lack of rain (40 percent below normal) has increased play and revenues by \$30,000 at Grants Pass Golf Club, according to superintendent Scott Shillington. That has more than made up for the extra \$2,000 spent on fungicides needed to fight back the more-intense-than-usual attacks of anthracnose, fusarium, pythium and dollar spot, he added.

Sufficient water has been available from the Rogue River to keep the course in excellent shape. Supplies could be shut off

in early September, a few weeks earlier than usual, Shillington said. That would not affect conditions, however, he added.

Other parts of the country have suffered along with the Northwest. Most of Ohio was "severely" to "extremely" dry through the first half of 1992, according to National Climatic Data Center, NOAA figures.

Shawnee Hills Golf Club southeast of Cleveland received less than seven inches of precipitation from April through June. That forced superintendent Paul Hudak into the unusual springtime practice of watering his course almost everyday from May 21 through July 9, when the heavy rains returned.

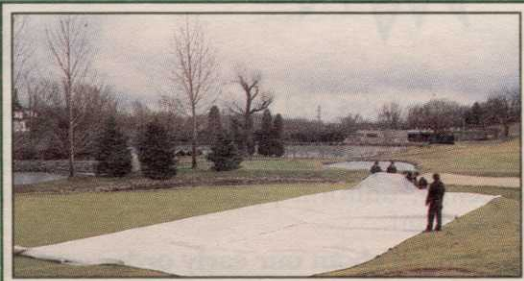
Shawnee Hills added workers to hand water certain sections of the course. Extra fertilizer and fungicides were needed to keep the grass green and ward off disease.

But the drier weather increased play, Hudak said. Shawnee Hills attracts older players who liked the extra roll the drier-than-normal fairways provided.

Head superintendent Mike Shannon of Teton Pines Golf Club in Jackson Hole, Wyo., has added two to three people, at about \$150/day, to hand water dry spots and aerify trouble areas.

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