

BRIEFS



LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GUIDE

A comprehensive guide that demonstrates how to use naturalization as an alternative to more intensive management of landscape has been published by the United States Golf Association and New York Audubon Society. Landscape Restoration Handbook shows how to improve water quality, reduce erosion, lower maintenance, reduce chemical applications, protect the ecosystem and ecology, and promote diverse plant and animal species. The handbook is organized by regions. The 650-page, four-color book will be published in March and is available from Lewis Publishers, 2000 Corporate Blvd., NW, Boca Raton, Fla. 33431; 800-272-7737.

RUTGERS STUDENTS GET SCHOLARSHIPS

BOUND BROOK, N.J. — For 10 years, turfgrass students at Rutgers University have received scholarships from the Peter Selmer Loft Memorial Scholarship Fund. This year, 12 students each received \$1,000 awards. The fund, set up in 1983 in memory of Peter S. Loft, is subsidized by royalty contributions from Lofts Seed, royalties from the sale of Tribute tall fescue and through private and corporate gifts. This year's recipients are Karen Plumley, Mirta Guglielmoni, Tracey Bunting, James Campbell, Brian Feldman, Joseph Clark III, Dirk Smith, David Grande, Pedro Perdomo, Randall Prostack, Suichang Sun and Chan-Seok Oh.



READ SAND DONATING FUNDS

Joe Farina of Read Sand & Gravel has organized a fund-raising program in which Read will donate 25 cents per cubic yard of any material it delivers to any golf course or driving range from last September to next September. Funding will be decided by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England's Turf Research Committee, which allocates the financing to the universities in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

BLUE VALLEY ENTERS GOLF

MISSION, Kansas — Blue Valley Laboratories has expanded its services into golf course maintenance. The 20-year-old firm is concerned with all phases of water management, according to water specialist and horticulturist Joe Setter. Blue Valley performs water-quality testing for lakes, source water and potable water as well as aquatic plant management, and limnology studies for existing and planned golf courses.

# Supers give N.Y. diagnosis program seal of approval

By MARK LESLIE

It is a program whose time has come for golf courses: Monroe County Extension Office's integrated pest management turfgrass scouting and diagnostic program.

Numbered among its satisfied clients are the high-profile likes of Oak Hill and Locust Hill country clubs and the Country Club of Rochester (N.Y.).

Donors embracing it are the state of New York, Cornell University, and a baker's dozen golf courses.

It is new enough to have no official name, but successful enough that it has attracted copycat interest from other counties in New York and from northern New Jersey and Nova Scotia, Canada.

Superintendents using the Extension service attribute it with quicker diagnosis of turfgrass diseases, reduced pesticide use and budget savings.

Simply, the program consists of either weekly, biweekly or monthly visits to par-

ticipating golf courses by a plant pathologist "scout," and diagnostic laboratory work done at the Extension's nearby Rochester headquarters.

"The biggest successes of the program," said Oak Hill superintendent Joe Hahn, "are positive identification of the pests before you spray, spraying only when needed, and a definite savings in buying pesticides."

"Instead of a superintendent writing a preventive program and going out every nine or 14 days and spraying, with scouting they can prolong the time between sprayings."

Hahn said that in 1992 he saved about \$8,000 — or 10 percent — on his pesticide budget.

Country Club of Rochester Bob



Jim Wilmont

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# Tips to match Tour conditions

By TERRY BUCHEN, CGCS

The most important aspect of any tournament, be it the club championship or a weekly tour event, is the condition of the golf course. The amateur or professional player can best display his or her skills as the condition of the golf course improves.

"Good playing surfaces tend to reward good play, and thus help produce a good winner. Excellent playing surfaces, properly maintained, are likely to attract strong fields of players," said Allan MacCurrach, senior agronomist for the PGA Tour.

I had the pleasure of working for the PGA Tour as an agronomist and advancement man, and it was the greatest experience of my golf career. Working with golf course superintendents on tournament-caliber conditioned courses was a tremendous learning experience. The following set of guidelines that MacCurrach, Dennis Leger and Jeff Haley work with each week on the PGA

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# Superintendent saves Tillinghast club big bucks in bunker renovation

By W. PETE JONES

Always a concern to the older golf clubs is the need to recover architectural design factors in order to keep the integrity of a traditional layout. Most important is the cost of doing such a job.

In 1990, superintendent Jim Hengel of Binghamton Country Club in Endwell, N.Y., saved his club many thousands of dollars by refurbishing bunkers himself, using a little common sense.

The Binghamton CC course was designed by A.W. Tillinghast in the 1920s and was site of the 1950 New York Amateur. Writing his preliminary letter, Tillinghast stated: "The panoramic view from this spot is particularly inspiring and, altogether, I consider this site one of the very best which it has been my privilege to examine in a long time."

The feeling Tillinghast felt in his initial observation must have stirred an excitement in Hengel. Through the years the Tillinghast bunkers had lost their design features and a refurbishing was in order. Call Hengel's work "recovery with common sense."

By 1990, Jim Hengel and the green committee had already been presented several ideas on how to renovate the bunkers. However, some were radical and uninvited.

"Initially, our green committee and I went out to several builders for bids to restore our sand bunkers," Hengel said. "The quotes were anywhere from \$90,000 to \$125,000. Several builders



BinghamtonCC's 3rd hole before its trap renovation.

wanted to implement more bunkers to make the course better for today's golfer. One even wanted to bring in expensive earth-moving equipment just to tackle the job of altering 36 traps. But I didn't want them tearing up our course."

It must have been confusing to discover there were builders and designers willing to sign the Binghamton CC course as

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# California, Florida spearhead use of effluent

Symposium to illustrate that golf courses can tap into major water sources

By PETER BLAIS

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — California and Florida are the leaders when it comes to effluent use on golf courses, according to the principal author of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines for using wastewater.

The country's two major golf states will be the focus of Dr. James Crook's discussion of Regulations Affecting the Use of Wastewater on Golf Courses at the United States Golf Association's Wastewater Symposium March 4-5 in

Effluent is 'an untapped resource in many areas.'

— Dr. James Crook



Newport Beach, Calif. Crook is an environmental engineer with Camp, Dresser & McKee Inc.

The EPA's Guidelines for Water Reuse were developed by Camp Dresser and first published in 1980. Crook helped update and expand the guidelines recently in view of technological advances in the past decade.

The guidelines are just that, guidelines. States control effluent use. About a third have laws, a third publish guidelines and a third exercise no control or influence at all, Crook said.

Consequently, effluent use varies from state to state. For example, while

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## N.Y. program

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Feindt, who served as the guinea pig for the project in 1987, is a staunch supporter.

"A superintendent gets so busy. With a lot of things on his mind, he can miss things," Feindt said. "If someone is looking specifically for disease or insect problems, they can spot them easier... Using this scouting program and lab really helps."

Hahn added that the complexes of diseases today are more difficult than years ago. "It's much more difficult to identify the diseases and where they are today."

Scientists have also found that many diseases are caused by root problems that had never before been recognized and that are difficult to diagnose.

Speed in diagnosis is also a major advantage.

"Before the local lab, it could take between 30 and 36 hours to get a diagnosis of a disease — and that is if you drove the sample to the university," Hahn said. "Now we can get the turnaround in a matter of four or five hours. Plus, if you mailed the sample, its environmental conditions could change."

Feindt also said misdiagnosis is less apt to occur if using a trained plant pathologist.

"A couple of times I thought I had a turf disease, but the lab looked and found an insect problem," he said.

Program administrator Jim Wilmont said one discovery alone saved a course perhaps \$3,000 when he found the superintendent did not have to treat for summer patch but rather for black turfgrass *Ataenius*, a difficult-to-detect tiny white grub.

### EXPERTS ON LINE

An Extension agent, Wilmont holds a master's degree in plant pathology from Virginia Tech. His assistant, plant pathologist Maher Tawadros, is the scout/lab worker.

Both have worked on the program since its inception, and therein lies part of its success, according to Hahn.

"It's been very helpful. And it will be more so down the road because the more scouting we do, the more adept we are going to be at it. If you had doubt about the scouting you would spray regardless of what the scout said. But now, with more confidence [in Wilmont and Tawadros], people will hold off.

"This has to prove itself. As it does, the more involvement it will see. And the savings will increase. More clubs equals more pesticides not going on the ground."

Wilmont gives the credit to Dr. Eric Nelson of Cornell University, who suggested the program be started; and Feindt, Hahn, Steve Williams of Shadow Pines, Rod Karchner of Locust Hill and other superintendents who helped launch the program.

The idea was spawned in 1987 when Nelson met with Wilmont, fresh on the job, and superintendents and greens committee

chairmen of several country clubs in the Rochester area.

"I was seeing that superintendents needed quick answers to their questions," Nelson said. "We [Cornell] have one plant disease diagnostic lab, and in the summer it is swamped with samples. A lot of times the turnaround time would be one to two weeks. It made sense to regionalize labs so people could easily get to the lab and get a same-day answer."

Nelson suggested the local lab and the creature was born.

In the first year a part-time position was staffed, a bisecting microscope was bought and Cornell

contributed a compound microscope to discover causal symptoms of diseases.

"First year we scouted CC or Rochester and we demonstrated that Feindt was willing to treat on a curative basis," Wilmont said. "He got information from our scout and diagnostic lab and treated problems as they occurred.

"We showed a reduction of pesticide use at his course without losing a lot of turf. And he maintained quality."

In 1988 the group submitted a proposal to the New York State IPM Program — which is linked with Cornell — for funding to

scout golf courses and combine scouting with the diagnostic lab.

Wilmont said golf courses provide 40 percent of the financial support for the program. At the same time, they cause a little bit more 50 percent of the cost. The balance is made up by IPM support and homeowners, who can also bring in samples to the lab and pay a diagnostic fee.

Total annual budget is roughly \$30,000, which does not include Tawadros' benefits, paid by Cornell, or Wilmont's time.

### INTERESTED OBSERVERS

Hahn said a program like Monroe County's would help

any area.

"It's hard to say how you could break it down," he said. "Every county has to do it. In Far West, where counties are big, they may need to be divided up. Here, Monroe County could take care of Erie and other counties. It all depends on the size of the counties, their population and number of courses."

Wilmont said Erie and Westchester counties are interested.

The Chicago District Golf Association, meanwhile, has a similar program. An adjunct professor at the University of Illinois works in a problem-solving capacity but not as a scout.

## With All The Abuse Your Turf Takes, Who Needs Root Pruning?

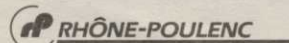


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