

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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Consistency, fairness the objectives of PGA Tour guidelines

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series on the PGA Tour's conditioning guidelines.

The purpose of these Tour conditioning guidelines is to assist the golf course superintendent and the sponsors in providing a golf course that tests the players' skill, is fair to all contestants, and one that has consistent playing conditions in all areas of the course.

The following guidelines cannot apply to all courses because of grass types, design and the time of year certain events are played.

Yet, since players of all caliber enjoy and benefit from playing under tournament conditions, it is recommended that the following guidelines be adhered to as much as possible during the rest of the year as well as during the event. Some changes will of course be necessary because of weather and membership demands, but usually when this is done, the membership enjoys the improved playability of the course. Maintaining near-tournament conditions also makes preparation for the following year's event much easier.

GREENS

In general most superintendents will be asked to provide green speeds of 10 feet the week prior to the tournament. This speed allows the Tour official to make a final determination of tournament speed which can be obtained quite easily. Arbitrarily achieving higher green speeds could eliminate prime hole positions for the tournament. The

USGA Stimpmeter should be used frequently prior to the tournament not only to check overall speed but also to check the consistency of all greens. This is very important to contestant reaction to the course.

Firm but not hard greens are to be the goal. This may require hand watering prior to and during the event. Key staff members should be trained to recognize areas of the greens that dry out needing supplemental irrigation, and those areas where overwatering should be avoided. The use of a hose end

canister containing a wetting agent has proven valuable in maintaining uniform moisture levels when hand watering is required.

If the greens drain uniformly there is certainly no reason why the greenside sprinklers cannot be used during the tournament. However great care should be exercised to make sure that overwatering does not occur, as it will increase spike marks, lessen the skill required to hold a shot, and possibly cause greenside bun-

ker sand to become overly wet.

Many superintendents believe that topdressing programs should stop weeks before the tournament. This is not true, and frequent light topdressing can and should occur right up to tournament week. Improved ball roll and reduced spike marks will result when a frequent light topdressing schedule is followed.

The following other items will help produce quality tournament surfaces:

- Use vertical mowing and

grooming equipment to reduce surface grain.

- Have aeration procedures to reduce thatch completed well before the tournament.

- Program fertilizer applications so that clipping removal rates are moderate; usually a rate of between 3/4 and 1 basket are optimal one week before the tournament.

- Review the previous year's hole locations and avoid these tournament areas for regular play

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Conditioning tips

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Tour, Senior PGA Tour and Nike Tour have changed over the years, going with the flow of the Tournament Policy Board.

These current guidelines differ mostly in that in the past the courses were set up to have the same playing condition each week. Today, the course condition guidelines must fit each course with its strengths and few weaknesses. Because of this development, current guidelines can be useful to superintendents preparing for any tournament, at any club.

In the past, the guidelines for fairway widths was 25 to 35 yards. Today, there are no standard fairway widths. They are determined by the Tour agronomists on their normal advance visits.

The following guidelines are for the PGA. All USGA guidelines come under the auspices of the of the regional USGA Green Section agronomists and championship agronomist, with their headquarters at Golf House in Far Hills, NJ. The LPGA has its own set of guidelines, also, and the LPGA can be reached at its headquarters in Daytona Beach, Fla. Likewise, the PGA specifications can be obtained from its headquarters in West Palm Beach, Fla.



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