

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 advanceman, 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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# Bayberry Hills tests add another feather to golf's environmental cap

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shallow water table do little to hinder pesticide leaching.

The original study showed next to no contamination and has been one of the most important pieces of research in defense of the golf course industry.

Superintendent Edward Nash's Bass River Golf Club was one of the four older courses studied. Despite the findings, government officials were still leery of approving Bass River's sister course, Bayberry Hill Golf Club, when it was first proposed in the mid-1980s, he said.

Environmentalists were particularly concerned because course chemicals could potentially leach into the town's underground drinking water supplies.

Developers agreed to install 14 monitoring wells at depths ranging from 20 to 60 feet, the lowest depth being the same as the town's drinking wells.

Six underdrains, plastic pipe just two feet below the surface with collection ports for testing, were installed under three greens and fairways. The shallow-depth tests would represent a worst-case scenario, Nash said.

The State Pesticide Board has monitored the wells and underdrains four times a year — at an average annual cost to the course of \$16,000 — since Bayberry Hill first opened in 1988. The results?

"Excellent," Nash replied. "They've found nothing of any toxicological significance. And nitrate levels have been very acceptable. The results have been so good, we're asking the town to cut back on testing."

Added Cohen, "From what I've seen, Ed would be justified in requesting cutbacks on monitoring."

Nash said the original Cape Cod study researchers recommended forbidding use of many chemi-

cals at Bayberry Hills, including Daconil and Dyrene, because of the Cape's unique hydrological characteristics. Twelve chemicals were ultimately approved for use.

"The [town] board of health has been very complimentary," Nash said. "The members said they knew they made it hard on us originally and are happy we've done such a good job."

Interestingly, gas chromatography tests at Bayberry Hills revealed traces of 2,4-D, even

though Nash had never used the chemical, Cohen said. The same thing happened to superintendent Bruce Cadenelli at Caves Valley Golf Club in Bethesda, Md., he added.

"We're aware that labs can falsely report 2,4-D. Another chemical coelutes (gives similar readings) with 2,4-D in gas chromatography tests. Therefore, unless the presence of 2,4-D is confirmed by mass spectrometry, you can't be assured 2,4-D is present."

## Binghamton bunkers

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"remodeled by." One committee member said it looked to him as if one builder wanted to "De-Tillinghast" our course.

Finally, Hengel said: "I presented a bunker recovery plan that would not only bring our bunkers back to the original Tillinghast look but proved to the committee that I could also hold down the cost.

"We started in the fall of 1990 with six of our crew and finished the project in the spring of 1991 using an additional five local workers to complete the job."

The final pricetag was around \$13,000 in base costs of trucking, sand preparation and equipment rental. Labor costs were approximately \$18,000.

Hengel's first step was to find a sand company willing to wash and clean the existing sand removed from the bunkers. A local sand company subcontracted for the job.

The bunkers then had to be narrowed to fit an older engineering plan.

This was necessary because the sand had spread far out into the grassy areas over the last 70 years and made the bunkers four or five feet deep with sand.

The third step was to place sod where the migrating sand had been.

"I determined that we could use areas of native fescue rough to fill in the void areas where bunker edges had to be redefined," Hengel said. "Our course bunker designs have been recovered and I feel as though we took every precaution not to waste the club's money."

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