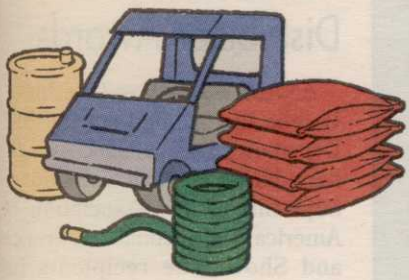


BRIEFS



CHILDERS HEADS FERTILIZER INSTITUTE

NEW ORLEANS — Chuck Childers, chairman/president and CEO of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, Canada, is the new chairman of The Fertilizer Institute. At the association's recent annual meeting here, which drew more than 800 industry representatives, Robert W. Honse, executive vice president, agricultural operations, Farmland Industries, was elected TFI vice chairman, and Gary D. Myers was re-elected TFI president and chief staff officer.

SEED RESEARCH PAYS OFF FOR DR. FUNK

Mike Robinson, president of Seed Research of Oregon, recently presented Dr. Reed Funk with a royalty check worth \$182,000. The payment was based upon sales of the following turfgrass varieties developed by Seed Research in conjunction with Dr. Funk: SR 4000, SR 4100 and SR 4200 perennial ryegrasses; SR 3000 and SR 3100 hard fescues; SR 5000 Chewings fescue; Titan and SR 8200 tall fescues; and SR 2000 Kentucky bluegrass.

RIPP SIGNS ON WITH MOYER & SON

SOUDERTON, Pa. — Moyer & Son, Inc. has announced the addition of John Ripp to its sales force. Ripp will be responsible for golf course sales in the Mid-Atlantic states. He will be marketing fertigation technology and custom blend fertilizers to new and established courses. Ripp brings with him 10 years of green industry experience. He has worked as an assistant superintendent and most recently as a distributor representative in the Chicago Metro area. He has a bachelor's degree in natural resource management.



John Ripp

BERAULT JOINS HYUNDAI

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Hyundai Golf Cars, U.S.A. has named Joe Berault regional sales manager for the central United States. Based in South Haven, Mich., Berault's responsibilities include the supervision and expansion of Hyundai Golf Cars' central U.S. sales division and coordination of manufacturing and distributing efforts to ensure that Hyundai fleets are promptly delivered and property serviced and maintained. Berault has operated Network Golf Cars, Inc. for the past three years, previously served as interim president to Michigan-based Chi Industries and has many years of sales management experience with Taylor Dunn and E.Z. Go.

High tech tools aren't coming — they're here

By TOM LAVERTY

According to a study from the University of Oklahoma College of Architecture, about 75 percent of the golf course architects surveyed indicated they use computers for traditional tasks such as accounting or office automation.

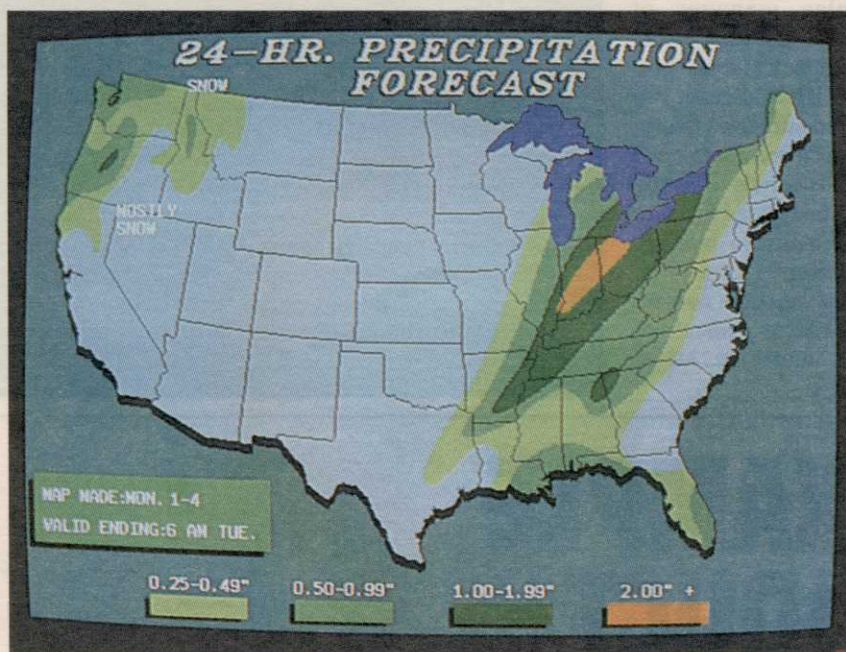
Only 17 percent, however, said they use computers for technical tasks such as design and drawing. Landscape architects are tough, elusive customers for computer graphics vendors and software application developers trying to provide solutions to make their life easier. The canvas is literally as big as the all outdoors, and the infinitely variable landscape seldom deals with straight lines or standard parts. Still, in this age of information, it is inevitable that the computer will play an ever increasing role in the architect's job.

There are currently two areas of focus that should interest the golf course architect. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are computer solutions targeted at the site planning professional who needs an understanding of the landscape within which a project will be designed. Site identification, watershed and ecosystem analysis, or earth-shaping work are tasks where GIS is of service.

Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) tools are for the architect who needs more accuracy and efficiency in landscape design and drafting, cost estimation, and many other areas. The line between GIS and CADD is blurring, though, as vendors provide seamless ability to move from GIS-oriented aspects of a project into more specific course design and engineering with

Continued on page 56

Tom Laverty is a freelance writer and a senior software engineer with Meta Software Corp. in Cambridge, Mass.



WeatherWare 5.0 can generate this type of map on any IBM-compatible computer.

Individual weather forecasts a reality

By HAL PHILLIPS

SALT LAKE CITY — WeatherWare 5.0 isn't rain gear. It's an on-line personal computer weather display program from Salt Lake City-based WeatherVector Corp., and another example of how the golf industry has been affected by high tech innovation.

Through the company's WeatherBank data feed, WeatherWare provides coverage of meteorological activity as well as graphic capabilities that display weather occurrences on TV-broadcast quality maps — international, national, regional and state.

WeatherWare sells for about \$300 and runs on any IBM compatible PC. It requires a Hayes compatible modem, hard disk and EGA or VGA color graphic monitor and card. Connection to the WeatherBank data feed is made with a 300-9600 baud modem via two networks which can handle calls from anywhere in North America, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If that last paragraph left you fumbling through your computer dictionary, you're not alone. Many superintendents are just becoming familiar with their

Continued on page 56

Barebo head to step down

By PETER BLAIS

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Otterbine Barebo Inc. President Charles "Chuck" Barebo, 58, will soon relinquish that title and more of the day-to-day responsibility of running the aerator manufacturing company to his oldest son, Charlie.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1994, the elder Barebo will become chief executive officer and chairman of the board of the Emmaus, Pa.-based firm he founded 14 years ago. He made the announcement at a distributor breakfast held during January's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Annual Conference and Show.

While he will cut back on much of his travel and dealings with distributors, Chuck will still be actively involved in the company,

Continued on page 54



Chuck Barebo

Chestnut joins Smithco

WAYNE, Pa. — Ted Smith, chairman of Smithco, has announced the appointment of William R. (Bill) Chestnut as manager of engineering & product development.

In his new position, Chestnut will be responsible for the creation and development of new Smithco products and further engineering advancement of the current product line. Chestnut joins Smithco following 20 years with the John Deere Company, where he played a key role in the development of its Golf & Turf Division and the marketing of resulting products. Chestnut, who shares patent rights with Deere and has been widely published in golf and turf business journals, will be based in Smithco's manufacturing facility in Cameron, Wis.

"We welcome Bill Chestnut to our company with much enthusiasm," said Smith. "We are highly confident that his considerable knowledge and experience will bring new dimensions to Smithco's product innovations and engineering operations."



Bill Chestnut

Ciba-Geigy and Rain Bird honor industry's Environmental Stewards

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Ciba-Geigy and Rain Bird have announced the winners of the first annual Environmental Steward Awards. The companies also announced a donation of more than \$12,000 to Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Scholarship & Research.

The award program was created to recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses for their work to protect or enhance their local environment. Entries were reviewed by an independent panel of judges selected for their expertise in environmental issues, turfgrass management and other areas.

Awards were given in three categories: public, private and resort golf courses. One national winner was selected in each category:

- Don Tolson, CGCS, Fox Hollow at Lakewood (public/Lakewood, Colo.);

Continued on page 58

Design software

Continued from page 53

the help of CADD.

The first step in utilizing GIS (and it is no small step) is to create a map, explained Ken Kinsey of Data Chromatics Inc., a land planning firm based in Columbia, Md. Data is collected from as many sources as possible, including field crew survey, aerial photogrammetry (digital data describing the three-dimensional surface below), and existing governmental topographical and survey maps. This data is assembled into the base map, and then additional

data is added such as soil and vegetation types, locations of wetlands, or rock outcroppings. Once the information is collected, the planner can analyze the model and a go/no-go decision can be made, or more detailed analysis can be performed, said Kinsey.

The site planner can use the computational power and graphics ability of the computer to manipulate the data. For example, he or she can adjust the contour lines to follow the proposed plan (interactive terrain manipulation). Kinsey said the computer can quickly perform the otherwise time-consuming earth move-

ment calculations. This allows the designer to experiment with many different what-if scenarios, all with the goal of minimizing the costly movement of dirt.

In addition to being able to see the cut-and-fill areas on the screen, a designer can use the computer for other engineering calculations. For example, identifying areas of poor drainage by having the software color areas of low grade is a common feature. One recent development is the ability to compute herbicide/pesticide runoff based on the slope and soil/vegetation combination, said Kinsey.

•••

Computer aided drafting has many benefits for the landscape architect. The accuracy of drawings created with CAD tools help to avoid on-site construction errors and the increased quality control/speed in making revisions are big advantages, according to Daryl Byrd with the Boston-based landscape architecture firm of Morgan, Wheelock.

Creating centralized, up-to-date information is an important factor. Some small landscape architect firms have seen a 35 percent increase in revenues, said Byrd, due mostly to the ability to gener-

ate work faster.

Byrd said a plant database can help the designer choose the most appropriate shrub, based on many different factors such as water requirements and mature height. A library of plant symbols can be accessed easily, eliminating repetitive work and reducing engineering time. Plant growth can be simulated, adding the fourth dimension of time to the 2-D or 3-D world of the landscape architect's drawings.

One of the most time-saving benefits in using GIS and CADD tools is the ability to easily gener-

Continued on next page

WeatherWare

Continued from page 53

computerized course and office operations. Is this stuff over their heads?

"I really don't think it is," explained Christopher Frame, national sales manager at WeatherVector. "It's pretty user-friendly. It's DOS-based and takes about five minutes to install. The software is set up so you just pick the weather items you want, and we have manuals to support everything.

"And if they have any problems, they can just call us."

Indeed, WeatherVector's customer service department is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mountain Time.

WeatherVector got its start in the weather information business by providing satellite pictures and data to media outlets.

"Now we're used pretty extensively in the agricultural industry, and we haven't really pursued the green industry until now," said Frame. "But we think it's perfectly applicable."

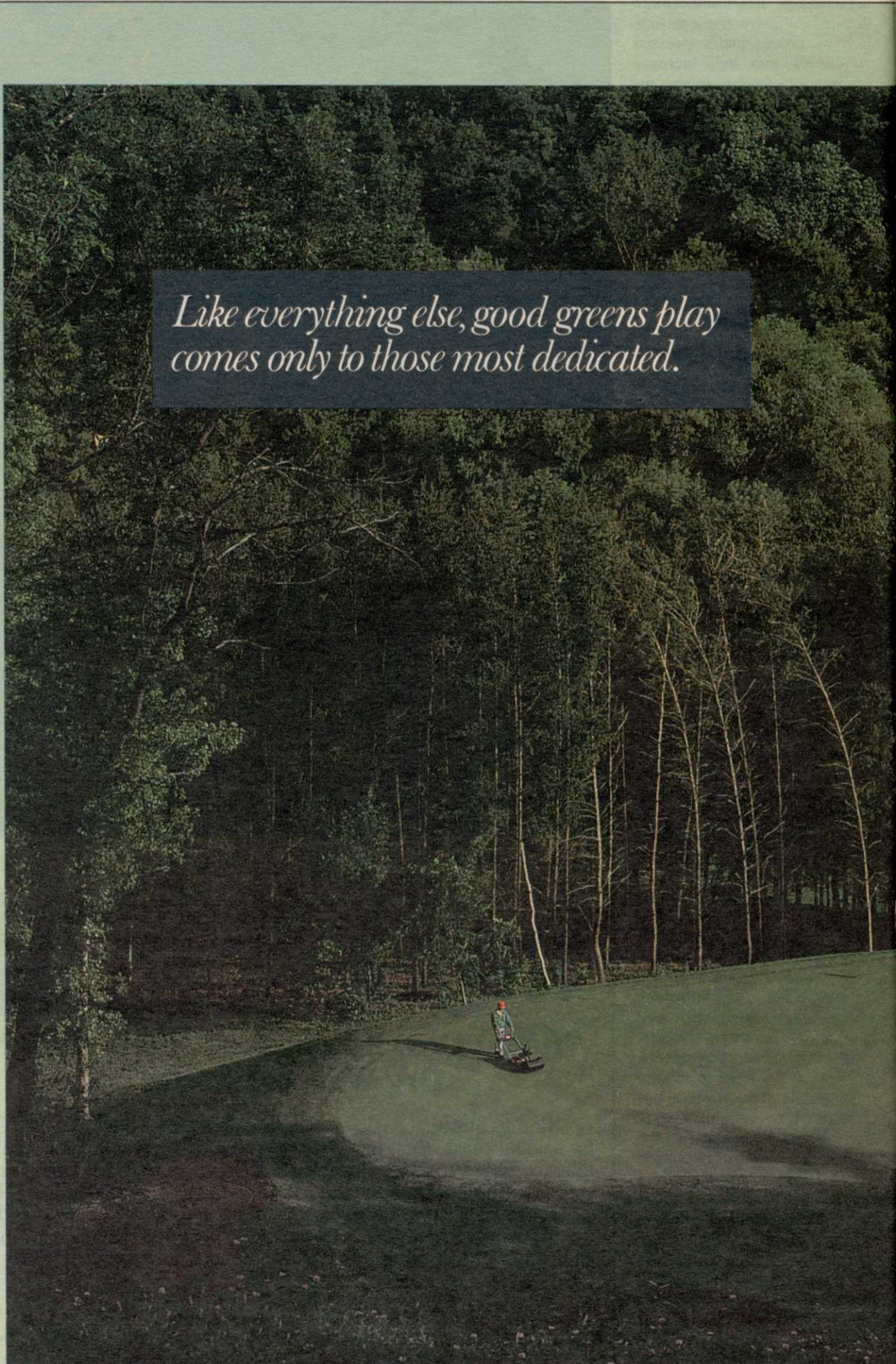
Frame is targeting the computer-literate superintendent with a need for up-to-the-minute weather bulletins. Version 5.0 includes high-resolution state radar displays which are updated every 30 minutes. This updated version of WeatherWare also includes national real-time lightning strike displays, advanced hurricane tracking, color satellite pictures, NTSC video output, Iso-Graphic upper air charts and overlays of highways, rivers and streams, county lines, etc. Custom maps are available.

"Most people will download the information in the morning and use it throughout the day," said Frame. "For example, if they know it's going to rain, then obviously they won't both with some types of irrigation. The same goes for chemical application.

"We see it as a cost-saving tool. It's designed to help superintendents better justify what he uses and how he uses it, which ultimately affects his bottom line.

"Most people rely on weather reports they hear on TV or radio, and the word tells it all: *broadcast*. It is very broad, very general. WeatherWare is very specific."

For more information, call Frame at 801-533-8388.



Like everything else, good greens play comes only to those most dedicated.