

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Irrigation Report

For a discussion of variable- vs. constant-frequency drives, turn to this month's special section 18

Cart Emissions

The California Air Resources Board holds the fate of gas-powered carts in its regulatory hands. 31



ORNAMENTALS COME OF AGE

Giant reed grass (above) is one of the many ornamental species used for both style and substance. See page 11.

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NGF study compares maintenance budgets

By MARK LESLIE

JUPITER, Fla. — Golf course superintendents, often asked to "perform magic with the same old things," may find artillery for their budget struggles in a new National Golf Foundation report, according to its project manager.

"A lot of superintendents get hammered pretty heavily because they are in charge of the biggest expense on a golf course," said Jerry Hinckley, who coordinated the report, *Understanding and Comparing Maintenance Budgets*. "Member committees and various people are constantly demanding more, yet aren't always willing to pay for it. They want [the conditions] they see on TV, and their expectations are very high."

Dividing the country into four regions and showing acreages and budgets at actual courses, the report demonstrates the relationship between expenditure and the number of acres maintained.

Most golf courses, Hinckley said, are "investing fairly heavily in improvements and new equipment every year. If you decide not to put any money back into the facility, above and beyond the basic maintenance, you're actually slipping back."

A panel of eight highly qualified golf course agronomists surveyed a

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Lake Michigan and skyscrapers frame the Family Dye's par-3 and practice-range project in Chicago.

Dyes take their act downtown

By MARK LESLIE

CHICAGO — People stuck in congested, downtown Chicago with a mere 90 minutes on their hands will soon have a chance to play nine famous par-3s from the Family Dye.

The Vintage Group, formed by ex-Dye Equities president Charles Tourtellotte, is in the midst of developing a one-of-a-kind golf facility on a tiny bit of property that used to be the Illinois Central Railroad yards. Come next spring, golfers can walk through the underground pedway that connects all of the office

buildings and hotels in the area, take the elevator to the clubhouse and tee off at the Illinois Golf Center — a mere long drive or two from Chicago River and Lake Michigan.

Tourtellotte hired the Denver-based Perry Dye to design a nine-hole par-3 course because "Perry has a reputation for being able to work with small sites."

Tourtellotte has leased the 30-acre plot for 15 years from Metropolitan Structures and the Whitman Corp., the partnership that owns and manages Illinois Center,

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More pump manufacturers join forces

By HAL PHILLIPS

DALLAS — Following a distinct industry trend, Pumping Systems Inc. (PSI) and Flowtronex International have merged, promising immediate benefits to customers.

The merger follows two other marriages: Commercial Pump Service Inc. and Watertronics; and Syncroflo Inc. and Western Pumping Systems. Only Carroll Childers Co. of Houston stands "alone" among pump manufacturers in the golf industry.

Flowtronex, PSI merge; Childers the lone holdout

Carroll Childers, who formed PSI in the early 1970s before leaving to create his current company, said the merger "comes as no surprise as there have been numerous such mergers and also closings of pump station manufacturers in recent years due largely to overpopulation in the industry and to downturn in

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The Paiute Indian Reservation will be home to a 72-hole, Landmark-developed golf and gambling resort.

Ex-Landmark employees re-emerge

By PETER BLAIS

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — A proposed 72-hole golf resort on the Paiute Indian Reservation is among several major projects being developed by newly formed Landmark Golf Co.

Several former Landmark Land Co. executives teamed up earlier this summer to form Landmark Golf. The limited liability corporation offers design, golf operation and real estate development expertise. The firm already has offices in Palm Desert, Calif., and Scottsdale, Ariz.

In addition to the Las Vegas venture, the firm has

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