

BRIEFS



NICKLAUS PICKS SORRELL

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — Steve Sorrell of Colleton River Plantation has been selected Superintendent of the Year by GolfTurf, a division of Golden Bear International. GolfTurf President Edward A. Etchells cited Sorrell for doing “an absolutely phenomenal job in completing the grow-in stage and developing the maintenance operations.” Sorrell joined Colleton River in 1993 after serving as superintendent at Grand Cypress Resort and Metro West Country Club in Orlando, Fla.

MINNESOTA CLEANUP IN FRONT

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program leads other Midwest states in cleaning up tank leaks, according to figures released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA reported that in Minnesota, more than 42 percent, or 1,837 of the 4,337 confirmed leaks had been cleaned up by the end of the 1993 fiscal year. That compares with 25 percent of the 50,000 known releases in all the EPA's Midwest states. Those figures do not include tanks with less than 1,100-gallon capacity.

OHIO LANDFILL DELAY

Lack of funding has forced Ohio to postpone its ban on dumping yard wastes in landfills. Expected to go into effect last Dec. 1, the ban has been delayed until as late as July. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said staff shortages prevented it from writing rules the state Legislature approved four years ago.

RESEARCH FUNDS RAISED

DENVER — A silent auction at the Rocky Mountain Turf Conference and Trade Show provided \$4,000 toward the Jackie Butler Memorial Endowment Fund. Money earned through the conference will be donated to the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Research Foundation.



SCIENTIST-AUTHOR SPEAKING IN NAPLES

NAPLES, Fla. — Dr. Michael S. Coffman, author of two books and former professor of forest science at Michigan Technological University, will conduct a six-hour seminar on environmentalism on May 13 at Naples Beach Club. The president of Environmental Perspectives, Inc., in Bangor, Maine, Coffman will explain how to handle environmental extremism on the local level. To register, people should contact David Court, director of education for the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, at 407-482-5000.

Water-recycling, chemical-free, tackling difficult issues, Pheasant Run was...

Ahead of Its Time



S T. CHARLES, III. — Whether it was foresight or visionary, long before it was politically expedient — or even recommended — Pheasant Run Resort Golf Course was chemical-free and recycling its own water.

In the early 1960s, McArdle Enterprises President Ed McArdle stood on 160 acres of Illinois prairie 40 minutes west of Chicago and envisioned a resort and convention center where a dairy farm then stood.

When Pete Mirkes Jr. took his first supervisor's position with McArdle, in February 1963, he faced major challenges.

“From Day One, we knew we had a challenge in front of us,” Mirkes said. “The property literally was tree-less, and had no

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Dr. Danneberger: 'Don't give up on IPM' too soon

By MARK LESLIE

R OCKPORT, Maine — Integrated pest management (IPM) plans are fun to discuss in the off-season, but oftentimes “come July, they're the first thing out the window when the spray tank starts up,” said Prof. Karl Danneberger.

Urging his Maine Turfgrass Conference audience to develop — and not abandon — IPMs at their facilities, Danneberger said: “If you're doing good practices ... they get better each year. If it is sound practice but doesn't work well the first year, don't throw it out the window.”

The concept of IPM is minimal disturbance, he said. “You will do as little, under optimum maintenance, as you can. That doesn't just mean reducing pesticides. Cultural practices can cause disturbances. Anyone who has dropped a height of cut on a green for a term knows that.”

The Ohio State University professor said the technical approach to IPM strategies involves cultural and biological practices, resistant cultivars and chemicals.

By using IPM, “you're hitting [application] rate with cultural practices, number with biological control, and resistance with chemical control,” he said.

“Most of our problems relate to resistance,” Danneberger said, explaining that the more a chemical is applied the faster pests develop resistance to it. “Fungicides are applied more often and that is why we experience more resistance with them,” he said.

Danneberger said superintendents should “quantify what you have on the course. If you have data you have knowledge. And if you have knowledge you have power.”

Having that data as a baseline makes it possible to gauge effectiveness of a maintenance program into the future.

“If you're doing good cultural practices you will see a lot

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Walter Woods makes mark far beyond bounds of St. Andrews

Walter Woods is head superintendent at St. Andrews Links in Scotland, the holy Mecca of golf. Woods has been the links supervisor the past 20 years. He consults worldwide and is past chairman of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. Contributing Editor Terry Buchen interviewed him during January's British Turfgrass Management Exhibition Seminar '94 in Harrogate, Yorkshire, England.

Golf Course News: How has the golf course changed over the past 20 years?

Walter Woods: We have had many [British Open] championships and that has improved us. To deal with the top players playing our courses I had to get more education. I did that by going to America. Your education system had a lot to offer and I was able to incorporate what I learned into the conditions we find here. I think we've improved St. Andrews because of what I learned in America combined with what we knew about British conditions.

GCN: Have British and Scottish courses evolved toward what we find on American courses?

Woods: I think they have. Despite the romantic things they say, I don't think golfers today would want to play courses with the conditions we had 20 years ago. We fertilize more than we used to. We're cutting fairways with triplexes rather than the gang mowers we used to use. During



In preparation for the 124th British Open Championship next year, St. Andrews is refurbishing its famed sod-wall bunkers — the Hell Bunker on the 14th hole, above, and Shell Bunker on the 7th, below — worn by the wind and golfers' sand blasts.

the Open, greens are cut two or three times a day because the pros demand putting conditions be faster.

Nowadays we would never succeed by closing our courses in winter. During the winter we expect people to play golf, use the gaming machines, buy food and drink. Therefore it's important we have a 12-month season. That's another reason education is so important.

GCN: Sundays are interesting at St. Andrews.

Woods: We've always closed Sundays. Many people have suggested we stay open to get the extra revenue. But Old Tom Morris said many years ago that if people don't need a day of rest the golf courses still do. We've always stuck by that. People are allowed to walk the golf course Sundays. You see couples and children and people with babies in their arms. It's more recreation. And then on Monday, it's back to golf again.

GCN: What time does your maintenance staff start work and golfers begin playing?

Woods: In Scotland we have long nights

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Terry Buchen photos

Danneberg urges supers to stick with IPM strategies

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longer control with your fungicide, and you will use it less. Vice versa. If you have bad cultural practices you will spray a lot and play catch-up. Sound practices will pay dividends over the years," he said.

NICHOLS ON RELATIONSHIPS

Harking back to the days before the shakeup at Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) headquarters in

Lawrence, Kan., Immediate Past President Randy Nichols said then-president of the U.S. Golf Association Stuart Bloch came within inches of being nose-to-nose of Nichols and said, "Our [USGA and GCSAA] relationship stinks."

That relationship, Nichols said, "has tremendously improved."

The relationship with the PGA "had been non-existent," he added. "Now we have a dialogue and are exploring

projects we can do together."

KYLE EVANS' TOP 10

Borrowing a page from the David Letterman Show, Kyle Evans of Waterville (Maine) Country Club presented his list of Top 10 Reasons Why It's Great To Be a Golf Course Superintendent:

10) We're the only ones who love rainy days in July and August.

9) We love a great mowing pattern... The perfect stripe is a

great thrill.

8) You don't have to buy any golf balls.

7) You get to yell at people and it's OK when people are doing something stupid. Say one of your guys decides a spiral mowing pattern's good for No. 12. I've seen it happen... Say the governor's playing your golf course and he gets that cart a little too close to the green. It's OK for us to go by and bark at him: "Get that cart out of there."

6) You get to set the course up for our own games, or make it rough for someone you don't like.

5) You get a lot of free hats.

4) You get to know who all the cheaters are. They don't see the maintenance crew when they move their ball out of a hole.

3) You can always use the weather as an excuse. "Hey, Kyle, the greens stink." "Well, it's hot."

2) Freedom of cart cruising. There's nothing better than driving around in a golf car. If things are good, you give them [golfers] the Rose Bowl wave. If things are bad, they can't find you.

1) You have the ability to ruin people's days. They get to the first tee and they see a "Frost Delay" sign or you're aerifying today. Their day's ruined. Let's face it, sometimes it feels good to really tick them off.

BENT & BERMUDA: OUT OF SYNC

Pierre Landry, superintendent of grounds at Foxboro (Mass.) Stadium, said they are trying to grow Bermudagrass at The Meadowlands outside New York City in May, in preparation for World Cup soccer games. "Good luck," he joked.

Randy Nichols, past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and a superintendent in Dunwoody, Ga., responded: "You ought to try growing bentgrass in Atlanta in August."

ON THE MOVE

Gunn moves on to Stockbridge GC

DALTON, Mass. — **Mike Gunn**, former assistant superintendent at Stockbridge Golf Club in Stockbridge, Mass., has taken over as head superintendent at the Wahconah Country Club here.

Stockbridge Golf Club is where Robert Tyre Jones played his last recorded round on Aug. 15, 1948. Inscribed on the scorecard upon completion of the round: "This was my last effort. I'm sorry it wasn't a better one. Bob Jones."

IRVING, Texas — **Scott E. Miller** has been named director of golf course operations at the Four Seasons Resort and Club here.

Miller, who had been head superintendent at Ventana Canyon Golf and Racquet Club in Tucson, Ariz., will oversee the Four Seasons 36-hole golf facility, which includes the private Cottonwood Valley course and the Tournament Player Club, site of the Byron Nelson Classic.

Robert Murrow Jr. is the new superintendent at Augusta Country Club in Kansas.

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