

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

Continued on page 14

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

Continued on page 29

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.

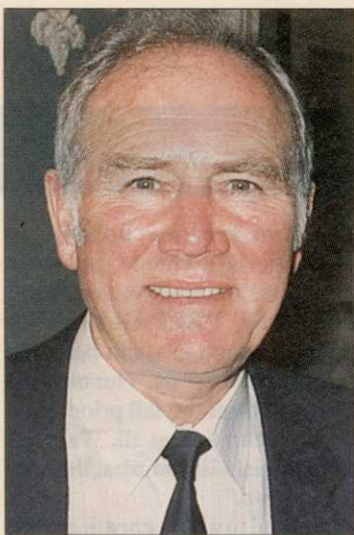
GCN: What time does your maintenance staff start work and golfers begin playing?

Woods: In Scotland we have long nights

Continued on page 28



Terry Buchen photos



St. Andrews' Walter Woods

Walter Woods

Continued from page 13

during winter and short ones in summer. We try to get out at first light so we can get in front of the players and have everything done on the first few holes before they tee off.

GCN: What type of grasses were originally planted at St. Andrews and what types currently exist?

Woods: Many years ago St. Andrews was almost completely fescue. Around the edges you find the sea grasses to prevent erosion. Over the years, with the many feet tramping around, the bentgrasses have worked in. Now in the fairways you'll find large colonies of fescues and bentgrasses.

The greens are more difficult because we cut them so low and maintain them more. We try to keep them in fescue and bent because that's traditional. They are links grasses. We can do that because it's very windy and that keeps the dampness off them. Sometimes we aren't allowed to water so that keeps them dry, too. The drier the conditions, the better your opportunity to keep fescue and bent. A combination of the two is best.

Poa annua is our biggest enemy. In the winter we aerate, spike and slit. But we don't do as much hollow coring as Americans do. We slit and maybe solid tine.

In the summer we hardly touch it at all. We don't irrigate for the sake of irrigating or keeping the grass green. We irrigate enough to just keep the grass alive. I've got wall-to-wall irrigation for all six courses. But we try to maintain the grass in the traditional way as much as possible.

GCN: How many maintenance people do you have for the six courses?

Woods: When I first arrived we had seven on the Old Course and six on the others. Things have improved now that we play through the winter. We try to keep those numbers about the same through the winter, but increase dramatically in summer when the work is needed. We have people picking up litter, filling ball washers and filling divots. We hire gardeners. We're becoming more Americanized regarding labor. We want people to come here and enjoy their round. We get things tidy, especially around the tees with new markers, new boxes, new flags.

GCN: What is your annual maintenance budget?

Woods: I can't break it down per course. We put all six together. Our fertilizer budget is low. But this year's machinery budget was high, about £150,000 [\$225,000]. Our total budget is about £1,000,000 [\$1.5 million].

GCN: How much do you spend on capital improvements yearly?

Woods: With the amount of ground we have and the cutting we do, you have to have the top machinery. We buy a lot of American equipment. The maintenance buildings don't look like much, but the equipment inside is the best. What we plan to do over the next two years is build new maintenance and

satellite sheds. When I arrived in 1974, the buildings were more than adequate. Now they are far too small.

GCN: When will you start preparing the Old Course for the 1995 British Open?

Woods: This will be my third Open Championship. It would be the highlight of any greenkeeper's career to even do one. We need to have things perfect for the Open, although not perfect in the sense of Augusta National. That's the closest thing to perfect I've ever known. I've got to make certain this is seen as a links-type golf course. We've

already started preparing. We're doing bunkers now. This summer we'll dry the course out. Next year we'll finish the bunkers. We'll do all the aerating this year because we won't be able to a year from now. Next year I'll just cross my fingers and hope God is looking after me.

GCN: The next Open at St. Andrews is scheduled for the year 2000. Will you be here.?

Woods: Probably not. I'm 59 and I'm planning to retire in the next few years. The 2000 Championship would be a good way for the new greenkeeper to get his start. I'll probably come down and help with

that one. But I have a lot of memories about St. Andrews and I'll probably put them in a book.

GCN: Where will your successor come from?

Woods: I think there are qualified people here who could do the job. But I suspect we'll advertise outside, too, and see what comes in.

GCN: Do you have any words of wisdom for our American reader?

Woods: If I were a young American superintendent, I would support your national association, get involved with the educational programs and take an interest in how the association runs. Get involved as I have with our association here.

No matter how hella

There are spots on every course which are, seeded bermudagrass and innovative seeded
for lack of a better word, Hell. They're scorched, zoysiagrasses to improved perennial ryegrasses.
Diseased. Trampled on. Or stuck in places the sun never shines. In all, 40 varieties bred to take the toughest your
course can dish out.

At JacklinGolf, we've developed turfgrass Through worldwide searches, we discover
seed to make even your most hellish spots play germplasm adaptable to some of the world's
well and look great. From the first proprietary

