

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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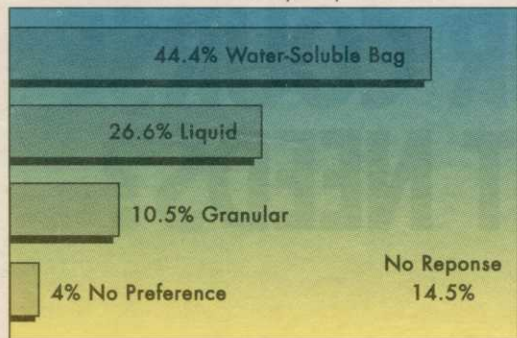
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SUPERINTENDENTS RESPOND

The American Cyanamid Co. recently polled 125 superintendents on consumer preferences, EPA regulation, environmental activism and other maintenance issues. Their answers appear on page 31.

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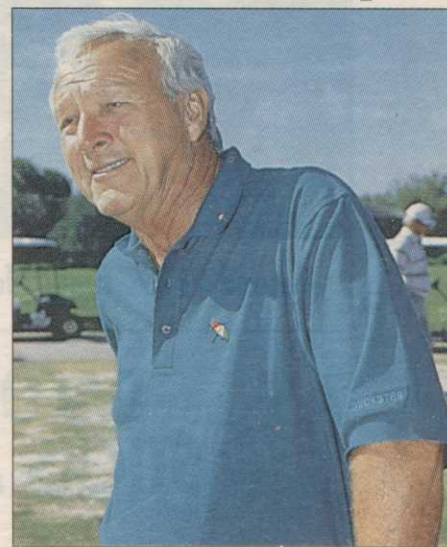
By HAL PHILLIPS

ORLANDO — Arnold Palmer, golfing legend and principal of Palmer Course Design, heads an array of influential speakers scheduled to impart their knowledge at Golf Course Expo, Nov. 11-12, here at the Orange County Convention Center.

Sponsored by *Golf Course News*, Golf Course Expo is a trade show and education conference designed specifically for superintendents, owners, managers and developers of public-access golf facilities: daily-fee, municipal, semi-private and resort.

Golf Course Expo will feature more than 150 companies, highlighting displays and demonstrations spanning 66,000 square feet of exhibit space. Also taking place on the show floor will be Shop Talks, vendor-sponsored technical and demonstration sessions right on the floor. The Palmer keynote, the trade show and Shop Talks are free to all Expo attendees.

"We are delighted, of course, that Mr. Palmer has chosen to speak at Golf Course



Arnold Palmer

Expo," said Charles von Brecht, publisher of *Golf Course News*. "He and the people at Palmer Course Design understand, as we do, that public-access golf is where the action is, so to speak. Over the last five years, 80 percent of the record course openings have been municipal, daily-fee or re-

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GOLF COURSE



EXPO

ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 11-12, 1994

A NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE FOR OWNERS, SUPERINTENDENTS, MANAGERS, AND DEVELOPERS OF PUBLIC-ACCESS GOLF FACILITIES



Brauer's Minn. project awaits court resolution

By HAL PHILLIPS

BIWABIK, Minn. — Neighboring Michigan may have its Homestead project, stalled and wrapped tightly in bureaucratic red tape. But Minnesota has a bogged-down, high-profile golf course development of its own, right here, and architect Jeffrey Brauer is caught in the flypaper.

"I might be overstating it to say it's like the Homestead," said Brauer, president of Dallas-based Golfscapes, Inc. "But this golf course has taken a tortured path toward approval... The worst of it is, no one is trying to sneak anything by

Continued on page 26



After the dormant bermudagrass is scalped at LaQuinta (Calif.) Country Club, maintenance crews vacuum the debris in preparation for overseeding.

Seed companies re-think the rye market

By MARK LESLIE

The term "high-volume, low-profit" might fit no other product better than perennial ryegrass—the choice of many for overseeding.

"People lust after this business for the volume. But it's very low-profit," said Steve Tubbs, vice president of Turf Merchants of Tangent, Ore.

"It's important to the industry in the fact there is a lot of seed used," said Tom Stanley, marketing manager at Turf Seed in Hubbard, Ore. "However, when you look at the dollars involved, it's not very important.

Then why get involved?

"That's a good question," Stanley said, "and I think it's a question a lot of Oregon seed companies are asking themselves. This year the trend continues from the last several years. We've seen declining prices and increased production.

"Everybody wants a piece of the overseeding market. It's big. A lot of distributors think it's glamorous. And it's a way to dump overproduction into a market that's not going to hurt them in other regions of the country."

Fifty million to 60 million pounds, or

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Roll With It!
The greens roller makes a comeback, page 20

Focus on Overseeding Page 11

Muddled in Minn.

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anybody. We're trying to be as environmentally sensitive as we possibly can be."

The hold-ups include endangered species, potentially endangered species, alleged forest fragmentation, water resource squabbles, state government in-fighting and citizen action lawsuits. The latter has tied up the project in court, though Brauer remained hopeful the matter may finally be settled and ground broken by September.

The entire affair takes place in this town, an hour north of Duluth in the so-called "iron range region,"

where mining operations have slowed considerably. Under direction of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB), a state government agency, the region took a giant step toward economic recovery with development of Giants Ridge ski resort in the 1980s.

Spurred by the success of winter tourism, the IRRRB soon sought a summer component and Brauer was summoned to design the golf course with help from PGA design consultant Lanny Wadkins.

With a choice of several sites in St. Louis County but inhibited by the endangered barren strawberry and nearly endangered marsh mari-

gold — which is still being considered for protected status — Brauer and the IRRRB finally settled on a parcel adjacent to the ski area. Indeed, the base chalet would double as clubhouse.

However, the IRRRB was jolted when its sister agency — the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) — filed a motion for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS), the first ever requested for a golf course project in Minnesota.

"Typically, the state would be easier on itself," said Brauer. "No golf course in Minnesota has ever been required to do an EAW [the less stringent Environmental Assessment Worksheet]. So when

they were asked to do a full-blown EIS, they felt they were being singled out.

"This fits into the bigger political picture. DNR's biggest quibble is they didn't have more input in the decision in St. Louis County. They also questioned whether counties have the technical knowledge to make that kind of environmental decision."

Eventually, the IRRRB and DNR took their respective cases to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), which sided with the IRRRB.

Immediately following this June decision, however, an ad hoc citizens group calling itself the

Iron Range Residents for Responsible Action, or IRRRA, and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) filed suit to stop the project. Contained in the IRRRA's legal action were some 120 environmental reasons to halt the project — many of which appear to have been lifted directly from the DNR's motion for EIS.

"It appears the DNR has been in close contact with the citizens group [IRRRRA] and a couple of DNR employees are part of the group," said Sherry Enzler, deputy attorney general for Minnesota, whose office has filed the state's legal response. "To be quite frank, it doesn't make a lot of sense to me. But it appears there is some fragmentation at the DNR."

As for the MCEA, its motivations appear even more political.

"The MCEA had already filed its own environmental report, noting its dissatisfaction with the schemes and rules used by the county during the permitting process," said Enzler. "The MCEA doesn't think the county can handle this type of permitting, and they also want more EIS's done, in general."

"To be quite frank, I think they are using this example as a vehicle to promote their point of view."

Among the concerns of DNR, MCEA and IRRRA is forest fragmentation and its effect on the Minnesota song bird population.

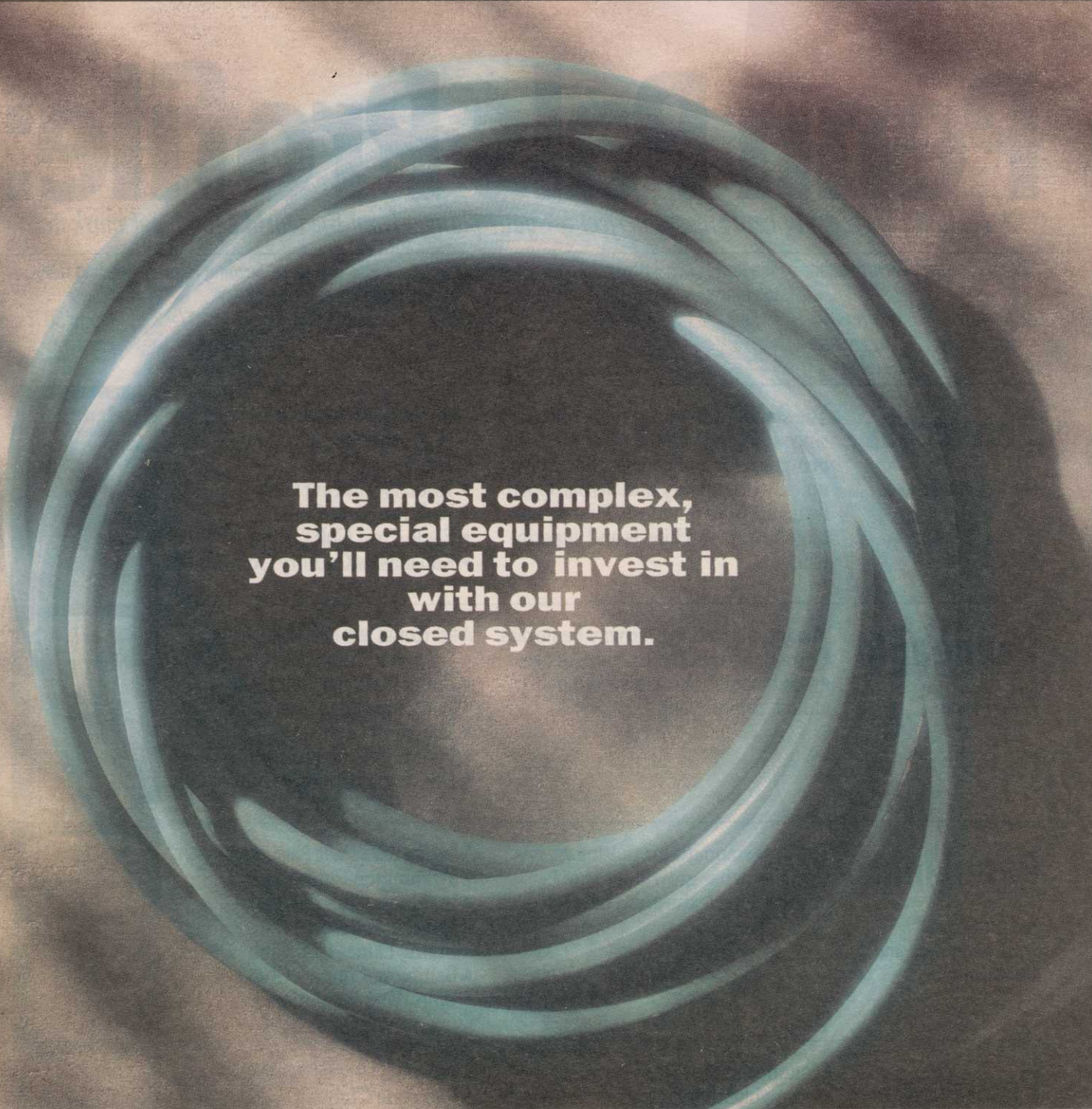
"The song bird population is in decline, and no one knows why," said Brauer. "The claim is, anytime you cut a road or line through virgin forest, you cut a path for predatory or parasitic birds, like the cow bird."

"We don't believe this is a virgin area and no additional damage would be done with our 130 acres of clearing. They say our 130 acres would affect 130,000 acres of forest. But the cow bird is already there. The area is no longer virgin forest."

As for groundwater concerns, back in April, the IRRRB hired Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services Inc., to study the area. Cohen has already testified several times before the St. Louis County Planning Commission and EQB. He will explain his results to the public sometime in August.

"I have never worked on a project where the golf course architect has gone to such great lengths to prevent surface drainage to protect environmental quality as have Jeff Brauer and Golfscapes," said Cohen, who added that his firm is performing the highest level, "top-of-the-line" analysis: i.e., surface runoff models involving more than 1,000 input parameters and subsurface leaching models using close to 1,000 input parameters.

"This shows that we don't have a block box with one button that says, Minnesota, and another button says, Yes," he said. "My people have been to the site, spent several days there and run hundred of tests, taking into account weather patterns and other scenarios. This is very site-specific and the preliminary study results are encouraging."



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