

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Analysis

Watershed findings: Pesticides test well

By STUART COHEN & TOM DURBOROW

Thousands of water samples from golf courses have been subjected to more than 100,000 analyses in 13 projects since the Cape Cod Study was completed in 1988, and only five samples contained pesticides above health-based action levels.

In fact, only 30 to 60 samples had even quantifiable pesticides, substantiating indications that proper golf course maintenance does not endanger water supplies.

Most of these studies have been done as a result of permitting requirements, occasionally as a result of research projects. With a few exceptions, they have not been well publicized. The reasons are that most of the studies have not been completed, and, equally important, the results are mostly favorable for the golf industry. It is hard to use good news to scare people.

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ECOLOGICALLY SOUND

This used to be a parking lot. Now it's Squaw Creek Golf Resort in Squaw Valley, Calif., perhaps the nation's most ecologically sound golf course. It's also the top mountain course to open during the last five years, according to an exclusive Golf Course News survey of architects. For story, see page 35.



ARCHITECTURE'S HOTTEST DUO

Ben Crenshaw (left) and Bill Coore are making news: Barton Creek, Kapalua, and now the much-anticipated Sand Hills. They spoke with GCN, page 35.

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State associations build/buy, manage their own courses

By PETER BLAIS

To provide improved member services and increase public play, a growing number of local golf associations are building and buying golf courses.

The Northern and Southern California golf associations along with the Oregon State Golf Association are developing their own facilities.

"Many other groups are talking about doing something similar," said Tom Morgan, executive director of the Southern California association.

The Northern California association started the golf ball rolling in 1975 when it acquired an option on 165 acres of Del

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No. 3 at Rancho California, soon to be owned/managed by the Southern Calif. Golf Association.

Arizona groups eye golf tax to benefit turfgrass research

By MARK LESLIE

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Following unproductive campaigns to raise research funds through volunteer donations, the Arizona green industry is taking steps in a new direction.

The newly formed Commodities Group is drafting legislation that would assess 10 cents per round on golf played in Arizona. The levy could potentially generate \$800,000 a year, according to Mark Clark, president of Cactus and Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association and superintendent at the Country Club of Green Valley.

Similar assessments reportedly have worked well for lettuce, citrus and grape growers, who all tax each crate of produce to fund research and development

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William Schultz

Schultz to assume leadership role at CMAA conference

By PETER BLAIS

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — A resident Texan will be elected president of the Club Managers

Association of America when the group holds its 67th Annual Conference here Feb. 6-10.

William Schultz, general manager of Houston Country Club since 1990, will assume leadership from outgoing President Richard Kolasa.

Schulz has been on the board since 1988, serving on several national committees and community organizations during that time. He graduated from Milwaukee Area Technical College and is currently CMAA's vice president.

In addition to Houston CC's 18-hole Robert Trent Jones-designed layout, Schulz has overseen Twin Orchards CC in Long Grove, Ill., and Brynwood CC in

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Arizona fund-raiser a pacesetter for the nation's golf industry

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in their industry.

The Commodities Group was formed to generate revenues for the University of Arizona's Karsten Turfgrass Research Center and other projects. "Cactus and Pine, the Southwest Section of the PGA, the Arizona Women's Golf Association, Arizona-Nevada Club Managers Association and Junior Golf Association of Arizona are the main players, along with the Arizona Golf Association and some other highly visible people in the industry," Clark said.

The group intends to present a bill to the state Legislature sometime during its current session, which would normally run through March.

Past attempts to raise money for turfgrass research have generally fallen far short of expectations, Clark said. Most successful has been the Public Awareness and Research (PAR) Group. Former PAR President Bill Rodie, a member at Desert Forest in Carefree, developed the Commodities Group.

The brainchild of University of Arizona Assistant Dean of Agriculture Dr. Merle Jensen, the Commodities Group will accomplish one thing even if the Legislature pans the proposal. "If nothing else, we got everybody together," Clark said. "That's a first."

Clark said golf industry officials in several states are keeping close tabs on the action in Arizona, hoping it might be a recipe for success. "If it works, we will be inundated with people who want to know how we did it, so they can, too," he said.

Voluntary contributions to PAR helped develop databases for legislation and research at the University of Arizona, Clark said. "But the involvement was extremely limited. We knew the only way to generate substantial funds was to make it mandatory," he said.

...

Clark estimated the assessment would actually raise \$300,000 to \$700,000 a year. The money would be controlled by the Commodities Group.

The largest portion would help run the Karsten Center, which needs \$250,000 to \$350,000 per year to operate.

Another key area the money will be used in is to promote affordable golf.

"In recent years the population of the state has grown dramatically. New golf courses are opening everywhere, but not a lot that offer affordable golf, and getting tee times is nearly impossible," Clark said. "We want to attract developers. We could even be partners in getting them started and then recover some of the moneys."

Another portion of the money will be used for "a campaign to show that recreation and the use of turfgrass in Arizona are economically beneficial — especially in the area of golf, but also for parks, schools, sports

'We want to attract developers. We could even be partners in getting them started and then recover some of the moneys.'

— Mark Clark, president
Cactus & Pine GCSA



turf," he said.

Other money would help develop a database to "reveal the potential and amounts of water we use. So when the Water Resources Board puts together

figures for the year 2000 or 2010, they will have real figures," Clark said. "We think that's important and will help bring about friendlier legislation for us so that our industry has a voice, much like

mines and agriculture do.

"People don't realize agriculture uses 87 percent of the water in Arizona. Golf uses one-half of one percent. The impetus behind this is that we need money to fund the campaign to tell people golf is a very important commodity in the state," Clark said.

Clark cited Cactus & Pine's point men in the Commodities Group — Jim Key of The Pointe and Hilton Resorts and Kent Nevitt of Foothills Golf Course, both in Phoenix.

Heavy players in the Arizona golf industry — Bob Goldwater, Harry Kavanaugh and Russ Lyons included — "all say this is a slam dunk, why worry," Clark said. "But we know that is not going to be the case."

"We are putting together a video to sell the idea to the [golf course] owners, because that's where the hard sell is going to be. The Legislature thinks it's a good idea, especially the many pro-golf people."

Stay tuned.



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