

EPA head addresses golf course management practices

By CAROL M. BROWNER

I don't play golf, but I love green landscapes, blue skies and crystal clear water — just like the nation's 14 million active golfers. And as the head of the agency that promotes public health by protecting our nation's air, water, and land, I have a strong interest in golf courses.

Golf course owners and managers can do much to promote a safe, clean environment. I look forward to working with you to make it happen.

In June, along with the Secretary of Agriculture and the head of the Food and Drug Administration, I announced a commitment to reduce pesticide use throughout the U.S. — a sharp reversal of the pesticide-intensive policy of the past 50 years. This new policy will help protect people from cancer, respiratory problems, and neurological disorders associated with exposure to pesticides through food, drinking water and lawns.

Today's golf courses use a large quantity of pesticides. In fact, golf courses use four to seven times more pesticides per treated-acre than farms. And heavy pesticide use doesn't just affect golfers and the people who spray the turf. Children who walk the course with their golfing parents may be more sensitive to pesticide residues than the typical adult.

Carol M. Browner is administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.



Carol Browner,
EPA administrator

Further, pesticide run-off can severely threaten the drinking water supply of the nearby community, as well as local wildlife. (Several years ago, managers who spread the pesticide diazinon on their courses saw geese eating the brightly colored pellets — and then dropping dead by the thousands right on the green. Diazinon is no longer sold for golf course use.)

As part of our new policy, we're urging golf course owners and managers to pursue Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which has already been used successfully at many golf courses. IPM has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the United States Golf Association.

If you're not already using IPM, ask yourself these questions:

- Does my course use the most pest-resistant type of turf for this climate and locale?
- Am I spraying whole areas, where only spot treatment is needed?
- Am I overusing "preventive" measures for problems that may never occur? Could I wait to control some weeds and insects as needed?

Most golf course owners find they can greatly reduce their use of pesticides without suffering any adverse effects at all. Your golfers will still have a good game. Your neighbors will be grateful. And given the rising cost of pesticides, you may very well save money.

Aside from reducing pesticide use,

there's more that golf course owners and managers can do. By cutting down on water use, you can save money and help your local community. In many cases, the type of turf that's most disease-resistant in your geographic area will be able to survive without much watering.

Finally, instead of simply not damaging the natural area around the course, why not actually improve it?

Imaginative course owners can create rich wildlife habitats, including wetlands, which play a critical role in the preservation of our nation's wonderful variety of birds, frogs, and fish. The most beautiful golf courses provide an ideal outing for golfers precisely because they've been built in harmony with nature, not against it. In fact, some of the finest courses in America are essentially 18-hole nature walks.

When I came to EPA, I vowed to use every tool at my disposal to enforce the environmental laws of the land. But fines and penalties, regulation and prosecution are only one part of environmental protection. Another part is encouraging American businesses to take voluntary action to safeguard our world.

I'm glad to say that many golfers are among the 80 percent of Americans who consider themselves environmentalists. And some golf course owners and managers are in the forefront of pollution prevention. All of us who love being outdoors can be a powerful force for environmental protection — not just on the golf course, but day in and day out, at work, at home, and in the community.

One of the more avid golfers I know is firmly committed to doing just that. His name is Bill Clinton.

Obituaries

Howard Kaerwer, 73

SPOKANE, Wash. — Howard E. Kaerwer, retired director of turfgrass research and development at Northrup King Co., died on Nov. 10, 1993. He was 73.

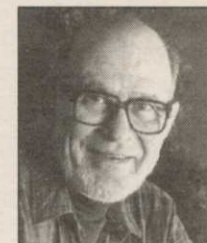
Mr. Kaerwer was born in Oshkosh, Wis., and served during World War II aboard a Navy submarine. He received his B.S. in agronomy from the University of Wisconsin and his M.S. from the University of Minnesota.

Mr. Kaerwer logged 37 years of crops, forage, and turfgrass breeding and research at NK. He took charge of NK research 1953 and developed extensive cooperative research projects with uni-

versity researchers across the country. His collection of personally collected germplasm samples yielded such landmark varieties as NK100, NK200, Goalie and Delray perennial ryegrasses, and Rugby Kentucky bluegrass. When he retired in 1984, he joined the Advisory Committee and the Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee at the USGA. He earned the Distinguished service award from the Golf Course Superintendents of America in 1988.

On Nov. 17, 1993, Mr. Kaerwer was scheduled to be honored as the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association Man of the Year. Larry Vettor, a long-time colleague at NK, accepted the award on his behalf.

Mr. Kaerwer is survived by his wife, Barbara, in Minnesota and his sister, Elizabeth, in Illinois. Gifts in his memory may be directed to the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation.



Mr. Howard Kaerwer

Phillips comment

Continued from previous page

jetting around the country, playing all the new golf courses.

Jerry has a good point. Architects do not, nor should they be expected to play all the nation's newly opened golf courses. However, who better to make judgments on the quality of golf courses? The *Golf Course News* staff? Hardly.

Further, all polls, surveys and elections are, by nature, political and subjective. That's why they're so interesting.

Golf Course News will respond to Matthews' comments, as we have in the past. The annual *Golf Course News* awards are not set in stone — they change with every passing year. For example, in response to input from readers, this year we honored the unsung members architectural firms (instead of the principal "name") and the best maintained course on the LPGA Tour (as opposed to the Senior or PGA tours).

We always appreciate your comments, good and bad. And we always try to respond.

When I took this job about two years ago, one of my first questions was, "I wonder if superintendents liked *Caddyshack*." Funny movie — perhaps the funniest movie ever made about golf. But it's not particularly flattering to superintendents.

Whether you thought the film was hilarious or felt the maintenance profession has just begun to live it down, I thought you might be interested that *Caddyshack* has finally reached American pop culture's pinnacle status: Merchandising.

Yes, Atlanta-based Ford Trading Company

has announced the completion of an agreement with Licensing Corp. of America, a division of Warner Bros., to market merchandise bearing the Bushwood Country Club logo and other related *Caddyshack* references such as "Be the ball," "Cinderella story," and presumably, "Die, gopher!"

According to Ford spokesman Warren Grant, any purchase of *Caddyshack* memorabilia carries with it automatic lifetime membership at Bushwood CC. For additional information, call Ford Trading Company at 404-885-9385.

Talking to the one-and-only Palmer Maples is always a treat. His comments were sought this month in connection with the story on Steve Mona's appointment as GCSAA executive director. For 12 years, Palmer has served as superintendent at Summit Chase CC, in Snellville, Ga., 25 miles outside Atlanta. He's clearly taken with the place.

"Everybody is somebody in Snellville," he proclaims proudly. "In fact, Atlanta's just a suburb of Snellville."

In case you missed it, Publisher Charles von Brecht has moved the *Golf Course News* advertising office to a new location in downtown St. Petersburg, Fla.

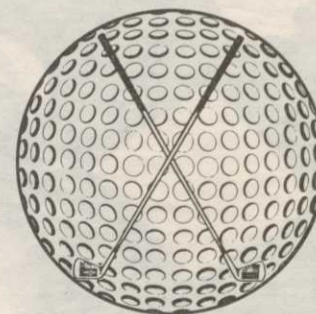
His new address and phone/fax number — and those of Marketplace salesperson Mary Anderson, appear each month in the masthead on the facing page.

But for your convenience, it appears here, as well:

Charles E. von Brecht
227 Second Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 813-898-7077;
Fax: 813-825-0923

READERS are invited to contribute letters and guest commentaries to the *Golf Course News* editorial pages. If something in the newspaper rings true, we want to know about it. By the same token, if something rubs you the wrong way, we want to know about that, too. Please send submittals to *Golf Course News*, 38 Lafayette St., Yarmouth, ME 04096; or call 207-846-0600.

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