GOLF COURS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

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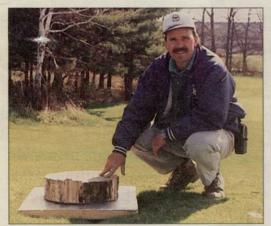
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Off the market

Last mercury-based pesticide, Calo-Clor, obsolete this month

By HAL PHILLIPS

Whetherornotyouagree that mercury-based pesticides pose tangible threats to the environment and their applicators, the last of this chemical breed will disappear from the marketplace this month.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has canceled the registration of the mercurybased pesticides Calo-Clor and Calo-Gran, as voluntarily requested by Grace-Sierra Crop Protection Co. (The request was made last year and Grace-Sierra has since been purchased by The Scott Company.)

Reactions in the golf course industry vary widely, as some applaud the move and some decry it. Either way, superintendents in Northern climes are searching for new ways to treat pink and grey snow mold.

"A lot of guys use [Calo-Clor], and I imagine a lot of guys are stockpiling right now," said Kevin Ross, su-

Continued on page 39



Grower Charlie Mitchell (from left), Penn State University's Dr. Joe Duich and Oregon State University field inspector Ivan Hagen get a first-hand look at the current bentgrass crob.

New cultivars show great promise

By MARK LESLIE

The hot button in today's world of bentgrass breeding is heat-resistance. and a half-dozen superior new cultivars entering the marketplace will reportedly antiquate some of their ancestors.

While turfgrass breeders and superintendents await the final results, this month, of the last five-year national bentgrass test, they know one thing: The new leading bentgrasses are finer, darker and denser than the old standard bearers.

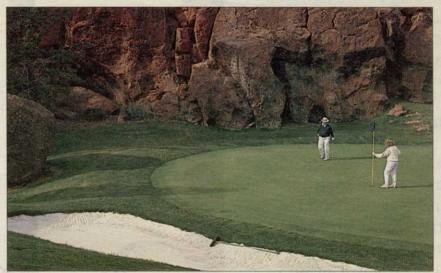
Expecting the newest cultivars, planted in test plots last fall, to be even better, Dr. Milt Engelke of Texas A&M said: "We've

made one first good step. We're getting a biologically stronger plant. The new generation of bentgrasses is going to give much better uniformity and less tendency to segregate.

"We're concentrating more now on taking the desirable genes for disease-, heatand insect-resistance and putting them into single [seed] populations."

The Penncross-PennLinks-Penneagle line out of Penn State has dominated the bentgrass market for three decades. But "suddenly, just within the last year more new bentgrasses have been released than

Continued on page 22



BETWEEN A ROCK...

The geologically striking 13th hole at Awbrey Glen Golf Course, a new Bunny Mason design now open for play in Bend, Ore. For a complete listing of new courses and those still in planning, see page 30.

Seven-course project planned for Virginia's I-64 corridor

By PETER BLAIS

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. -The state's largest landowner and one of the major operators of golf courses in Myrtle Beach, S.C., have joined forces to develop as along Interstate 64 between Wiliamsburg and Richmond.

Chesapeake Corp. of Richmond and The Legends Group of Myrtle Beach tentatively plan four courses, a residential subdivision and possibly a parimany as seven golf courses mutuel horse racetrack on 10,000 acres in New Kent County. Construction of the first course is scheduled to begin in early summer and could be ready for play by September 1995, according to Peter Johns, special projects manager for Chesapeake subsidiary Delmarva Properties

> Closer to Williamsburg, the 7,200-acre Stonehouse

Continued on page 29



By PETER BLAIS

Enhancing golf's image, forging closer ties with other golf associations and promoting more facilities for entry-level players

Jim Scott takes the

reins at NGCOA

are among the goals of new National Golf Course Owners Association President Jim Scott.

"Right now our biggest challenge is overcoming the negative environmental perception surrounding golf courses," said Scott, whose family owns and operates five golf courses and a hotel in Augusta, Mich.

"It's hard to imagine the game would have grown as much as it has if it had such a negative environmental effect. But no one seems to want to talk about the positives. It's up to us to do it."

Us doesn't mean just course owners, but all members of the Allied Associations of Golf, the 23-year golf industry veteran said. He noted in particular the efforts of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to improve golf's environmental image and

Continued on page 35

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(It's about time.)

CIRCLE #101

NEWS IN BRIEF

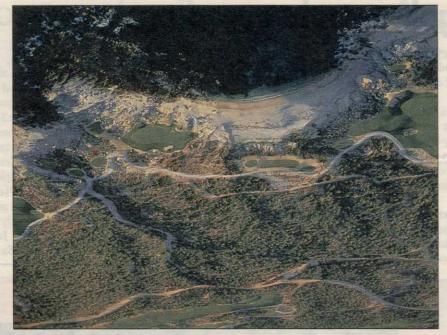
MUKWONAGO, Wis. - New owners of the Rainbow Spring Resort here plan to overhaul the complex and expand the golf course. The complete overhaul is expected to take five years. Golden Springs Investments acquired Rainbow Springs for \$4.2 million at a bankruptcy auction in January.

MESQUITE, Nev. — The fastest growing community in the state is about to become even larger with another golf course. Redd and Dennis Ryder are adding an 18-hole golf course designed by Arnold Palmer to Si Redd's Peppermill Oasis Resort Hotel Casino. The course may one day be enlarged to 36-holes.

LONG COVE, S.C. - The contamination of tap water here has been traced to the Long Cove Club golf course. The contamination, which lasted only for a weekend, occurred when the golf course mistakenly connected its irrigation system, which uses treated wastewater, to the town drinking-water system. No legal repercussions have been reported.

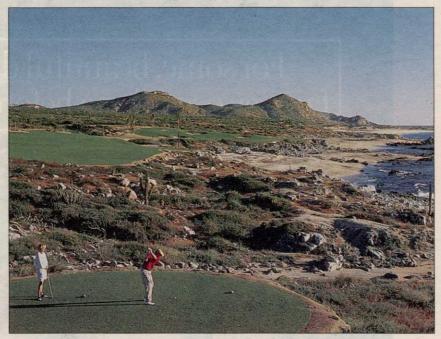
FORT WAYNE, Ind. - A proposed residential golf community here has been approved by the Allen County Plan Commission. Colonial Development Corp. expects to begin construction in midsummer of the 368-acre subdivision, which includes an 18-hole golf course intertwined with 500 homes. The commission stipulated the rights of the parcel's one active well, owned by Pioneer Drilling Co. of Payne, Ohio, must be resolved before the development can proceed.

PARIS - The sixth annual Golf Course Europe Exhibition and Conference will be held at the Parc Floral here from Nov. 29 through Dec. 1, 1994. For more information on the exhbition and conference, contact Charles Duff at P.O. Box 7720, Berkeley, CA 94707; or call 510-526-6922; or fax 510-526-5387.



NICKLAUS, SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Jack Nicklaus' latest creation — Cabo del Sol in Los Cabos, Mexico — opened for play on May 15. The 18-hole course is located on the Baja Peninsula's southern tip. "This is the best piece of property I've ever seen," said Nicklaus, who routed seven holes along the on the Sea of Cortez. "I firmly believe these are the three finest finishing holes in all of golf." The 17th (above) is a 175-yard par 3, while the par-4 18th (below) plays 425 along the rugged coastline.



Landmark Update

RTC preps 180 bidders for Oak Tree auction

By PETER BLAIS

Nearly 180 investors attended two early-May bid conferences dealing with the auction of former Landmark Land Co. properties in Oklahoma, Louisiana and California.

The Resolution Trust Corp. held the first session May 3 in Oklahoma City. The 18hole Oak Tree Golf Club (site of the 1988 PGA Championship) and clubhouse in nearby Edmond will be one of the two golf properties auctioned off. The other is 36hole Oak Tree Country Club, which includes a fitness center and 300 acres of undeveloped residential land.

RTC conducted the second bid conference May 10 in New Orleans. The two Louisiana properties under discussion were Oak Harbour Yacht & Country Club in Slidell and Belle Terre Country Club in La Place.

RTC was scheduled to hold a third bid conference May 17 for a set of 12 California parcels, including 18-hole Oak Valley Golf Club 60 miles east of Los Angeles. The course is part of the 6,800-acre, masterplanned Oak Valley community.

Interested bidders can obtain information packets on all former Landmark properties from the RTC for approximately \$100. Serious bidders can access more detailed information from the RTC's investor library in New Orleans by putting up a \$10,000 refundable deposit.

Sealed bids on the Oklahoma properties are tentatively due Aug. 2 and on the Louisiana and California holdings Sept. 13.

Oak Tree GC and Oak Tree CC were treated separately from the first six Landmark properties auctioned off last summer because of a stipulation granting Oak Tree members the right to match the highest offer. Any bid on the Edmond properties is also subject to bankruptcy court approval.

Continued on page 46

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Dreams of N.J. golf complex eroding

ROCKAWAYTOWNSHIP, N.J. -Local officials' dreams the township would be home to a sprawling complex of million-dollar homes and golf courses may be doomed as the state negotiates to purchase 2,500 acres containing the Copperas Ridge tract.

A state Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (DEPE) official said the land would be purchased for preservation under the Green Acres program as a wildlife preserve or park.

Township officials were upset, saying the sale would mean millions of dollars in lost tax revenues.

"If that golf course project was ever built, it could bring in \$3 million in ratables," Mayor Frank Maddaloni told the Daily Record.

Purchase of the acreage from Hawaii-based developer Kal Uezu would be financed through a proposed bond issue, and is one of many open space purchases under negotiation throughout the state, said Tom Wells, administrator of the DEPE's Green Acres program.

Plans for Copperas Ridge, once heralded by developers and township officials as the project that would "put Rockaway Township on the map," have dwindled since first proposed in 1989.

The proposed 1,700-acre complex didn't get off the ground partly because of the stagnant economy and lack of sewer hook-

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And strict wetlands protection laws passed in 1990 reduced the number of developable acres by

The area was part of a 3,123acre tract purchased by the Parsippany-based Sammis Co. for \$28 million in 1988.

It was reportedly the largest land deal in Morris County this

The next year, plans for the \$500 million luxury housing and golf complex were unveiled.

The proposal originally called

for five golf courses, including one designed by the legendary Arnold Palmer, and more than 400 homes on five-acre lots, costing \$1 million each.

But in 1990, Sammis sold its interest to a Japanese company, Takao Building and Development

Takao scaled down the plan in 1991 to two golf course and 300 homes, costing only \$500,000

Takao sold the tract to Uezu in 1992.

Downtown Chicago track opens July 31

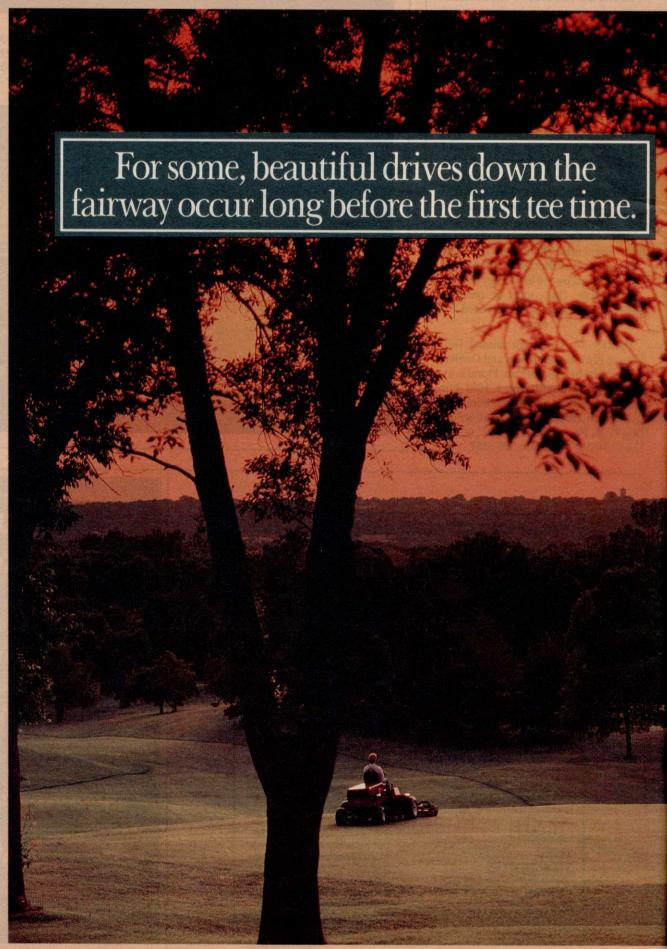
CHICAGO, Ill. - Perry Dye's downtown, nine-hole public golf course and driving range, surrounded by office and residential towers, is on schedule for a July 31 opening.

The par-3 course carries a \$3.5 million price tag.

The Illinois Center Golf, named for the complex it abuts, is an urban rarity. "I don't know of any [downtown area] in the world with a facility like this," general manager John Wiley told the Chicago Sun-Times.

Because the course sits below street level, pedestrians and windows will be spared the nuisance of errant golf balls. The longest hole measures 155 yards and the ninth hole features the Dye trademark, an island green.

The project also includes a 7,000-square-foot clubhouse, restaurant, pro shop and golf academy/learning center where several full-time pros aided by video recorders will give lessons.



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S'West III. potential golf hotbed

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — A feasibility study performed by Golf Resources Associates concludes the metro-east market centered here is strong enough to support new golf courses.

This finding has led to the proposal of three municipal golf courses in the immediate area: a nine-hole course near Longacre Park in Fairview Heights; an 18hole course at the abandoned St. Ellen Mine in O'Fallon; and a course in Cahokia which is being slowed by resident opposition (see related story, page 8).

Atlanta-based Golf Resources Associates (GRA) determined the demand now exists for approximately 1.7 million rounds of golf in the region each year, with about 1.95 million expected by 1995. But according to GRA, area golf courses can provide only about 890,000 rounds, leaving a large untapped market for golf course developers.

The study encompassed the area south to Waterloo, west to Highway 67 near Arnold, Mo., north to Interstate 270 and just east of Lebanon.

Maine muni not guilty in lightning death

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine - A jury last month ruled the city was not financially liable for the death of a golfer struck by lightning four years ago at South Portland Municipal Golf

The jury voted 6-2 that the city of South Portland shared in the blame for the death of Thomas

But it ruled that Fisher's decision to ride out the storm under a tree on the sixth tee, rather than move indoors, made him more responsible than the city. No financial damages were awarded Fisher's family.

The suit charged the city was negligent for failing to take measures to protect golfers from lightning.

According to the Portland Press Herald, testimony showed the course took no precautions such as sirens, posters or lightning shelters to warn golfers of an approaching storm.

This is believed to be the first jury trial charging negligence in a golfer's death.

The Supreme Court of Tennessee in 1991 overturned a lower-court decision against a golf course in a lightning death, the newspaper reported.



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CIRCLE #104

Expansion of Mass. municipal course proposed

DUXBURY, Mass. - Selectman Chairman Friend Weiler has indicated it's time to expand the town-owned North Hill Country Club from nine holes to 18.

Three years ago, an engineering study of the 300-acre site indicated expanding the golf course would not harm the groundwater or adversely affect neighboring conservation land.

Last year, despite a positive economic feasibility study, expansion was postponed.

The new plans call for a driving range and a clubhouse. The whole project will cost the town about \$2 to \$2.5 million, according to Brian Silva, principal in the golf course design firm of Cornish and Silva.

Board supports wetlands study for Mass, course

NORWELL, Mass. - A majority of the advisory board has indicated its support for a wetlands study of the 144-acre Stetson Meadows conservation land, which has been proposed as a site for a town golf course.

Information of the extent and location of the wetlands is necessary to determine whether a course could be built and whether it could be nine or 18 holes.

Half the advisory board members in favor of the study said they did not think a golf course would ever be built on the North River site. If this were the case, the study could help determine other recreational uses for the land.

BAY STATE PRACTICE FACILITY SET TO OPEN JULY 1

HOLLISTON, Mass. - A practice range under construction at Pinecrest Golf Course is scheduled to begin full-time operation on July 1. The work is being completed by M&R Construction Company of Nashua, N.H.

The range will include 25 individual practice tees and a number of sandtraps and target greens at varying distances.

San Jose airport land eyed for potential golf course

SAN JOSE, Calif. — With an eye on 160 acres of vacant land in the San Jose International Airport approach zone, city council ors here are discussing the best ways to ease the city's golf course shortage.

City administrators will continue to study using about 60 acres of the vacant land for a nine-hole golf course and driving range. The course and range would be considered temporary, meaning they would close after 15 to 20 years.

However, this area also serves as the proposed site of the elaborate Guadalupe Gardens. Councilman David Pandori said the approach zone is an ideal spot for a central garden which would call for 140 acres of orchards, flowers, meadows and a number of educational exhibits — all in the shadow of the airport.

Councilwoman Charlotte Powers, a member of the golf course subcommittee that recommended the garden as a course site, said the garden plan was "wonderful," but not entirely realistic.

Under the subcommittee recommendation, a smaller garden could open on the land surrounding the golf course and range. Profits from golf would go toward completing the garden once the golf course closed.

Two other options exist for providing more area golf courses:

- The city will continue to look into building an 18-hole course along the Coyote Creek north of Capitol Expressway. This plan has been criticized by environmentalists who say the area represents the last river habitat of its kind in the Bay Area.
- A third plan calls for the city to form a partnership with the owners of the Pleasant Hill Golf Course. The plan would not add a new golf course, but rather prevent the club from being transformed into a subdivision.

South California remodel should finish by October

DOWNEY, Calif. — The \$4.5 million renovation of the 101-acre Rio Hondo Golf Course is on schedule for an October reopening here. The renovation began last November after five years of planning.

The sod has yet to be laid, but golfers touring the site already give the course rave reviews, observers told the *Press Telegram*. Features of the newly designed course include a computerized irrigation system, Crenshaw bentgrass on the greens and Tifway II hybrid Bermudagrass on tees and fairways.

More than \$2 million in surplus money generated by the course helped pay for the overhaul. The work was financed with municipal bonds that future course income will repay, Mayor Robert Brazelton said.

The course was founded in the 1920s and sold to the city in 1970.

LA seeks \$600K annual lease for Hansen Dam GC

PACOIMA, Calif.—A draft proposal for a private firm to take over operation of Hansen Dam Golf Course asks for at least \$600,000 annually in guaranteed rent to the city.

Drafted as a "request for proposals" from private firms, the document was developed by the Los Angeles city parks department staff for consideration by the mayor's office, which has not yet decided whether to seek private bids for Hansen Dam or other golf courses.

Across Los Angeles, 13 cityowned golf courses produced net revenue of \$2.2 million annually. One private firm, American Golf Corp., has estimated it could produce \$6 million or more annually for the city if given the contract to run the golf courses.

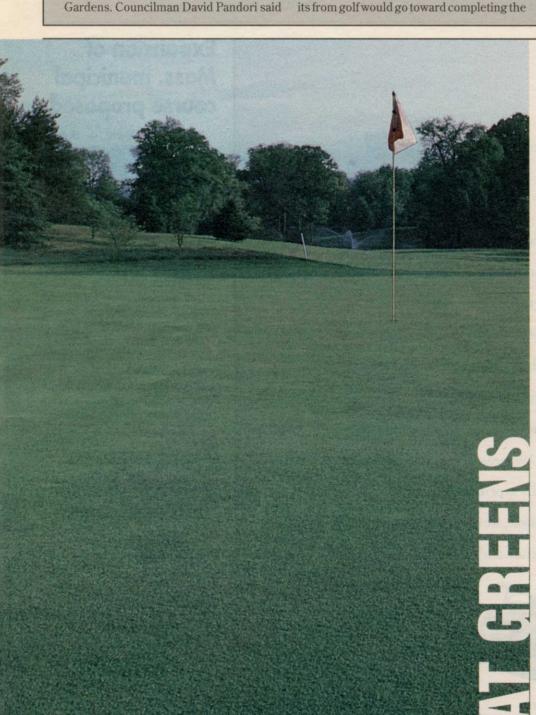
Sun City project underway near Sacramento

ROSEVILLE, Calif. — Del Webb Corp. has begun construction of a retirement community here in suburban Sacramento.

Plans include 3,500 homes, a Billy Casper signature golf course, recreation lodge, and other amenities

Site general manager John Murray said during construction the development will generate more than 600 jobs. Murray said Del Webb is also planning new communities near Austin, Texas and Hilton Head, S.C.

GOLF COURSE NEWS





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CIRCLE #105

California judge blocks environmentalists' efforts to overturn Ojai Valley golf course development

OJAI VALLEY, Calif. — A Superior Courtjudge upheld Ventura County's approval of a golf course, denying the Environmental Coalition's request to block the project.

The Board of Supervisors approved Farmont Corp.'s plans for an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse facilities after the company showed the project would use up to 407 acre-feet of water per year—about one-fifth the water to which the company was entitled.

OJAI VALLEY, Calif. — A Suerior Court judge upheld Ventura rights to get project approval.

> Judge William Peck rejected the coalition's claim the project violated county policy banning new golf courses, unless non-drinking water is used for irrigation or sufficient drinking water exists.

> Although Peck decided for the developer, he noted reading the county law literally would require rejecting the project, and urged the county to revise the ordinance.

The Coalition's attorney rec-

ommend Peck's decision be appealed.

The 18-hole, 113-acre course, designed by Pete Dye, could open in 1996. The project includes a 19,890-square-foot clubhouse and a 20-player driving range.

Farmont is owned by Japanese media tycoon Kagehisa Toyama, an avid golfer. Players must pass a golf test and pay as much as \$150,000 for club membership. Only 35 rounds of golf will be played per day.

Miss. layout delayed by pols

GREENWOOD, Miss. — A proposed public golf course here has been shelved for the year despite the recent decision to go forward with the project.

Study committee member John Emmerich said he was sorry about the course being put off.

But the decision, he said, does not mean the course is in jeopardy.

Council President and State Senator David Jordan announced that he was unable to get the one and a half-cent golf course tax onto the appropriate Legislative committee's agenda for approval as a local and private bill. The committee chairman, Jordan said, would not consider the tax because it was going solely for the golf course.

The purpose of the tax was to help raise revenue to give the multimillion-dollar course some financial cushion while it got underway.

Alabama's Trent Jones Trail now fully operational

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The last two of the state's seven Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses are fully operational.

Courses in Butler and Calhoun counties join courses already in operation in Jefferson, Houston, Lee, Madison and Mobile counties.

Silver Creek in Anniston is the last course to come on line.

The \$100 million Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail venture is part of course owners Retirement Systems of Alabama's attempt to further diversify its investment of the state's \$13 billion pension fund for the state's teachers, government employees and judges.

The Trail is expected to reap millions in tourist dollars for the state.

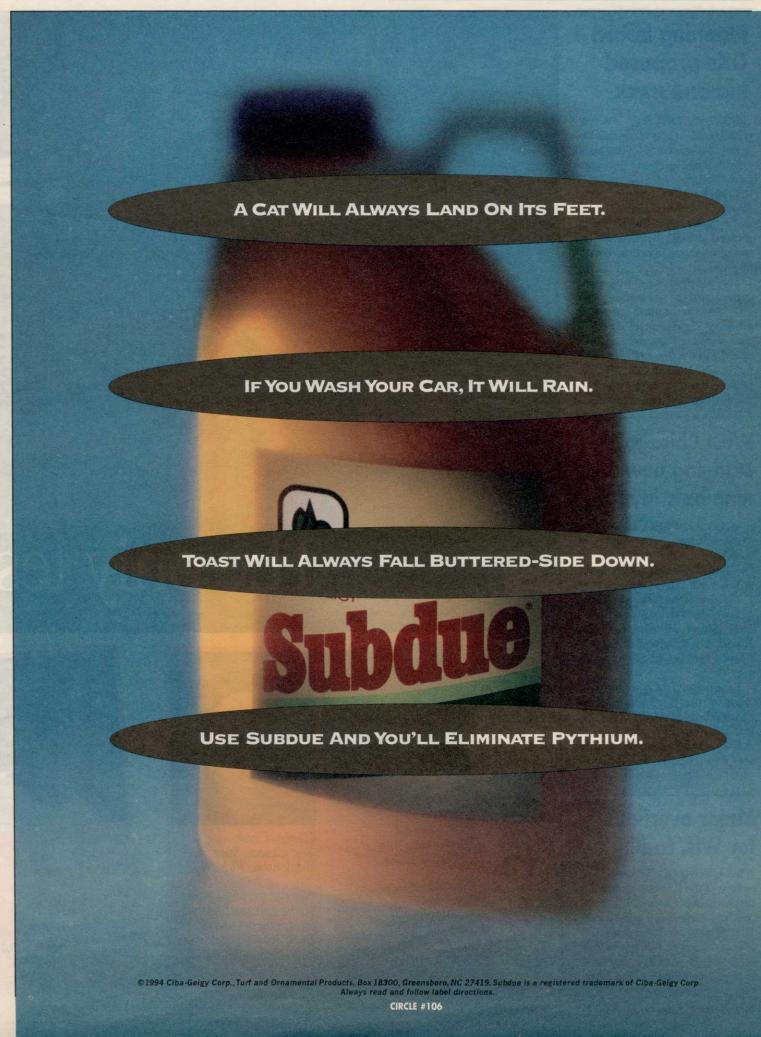
with ClubCorp on Ark. facility

HOTSPRINGS VILLAGE, Ark. — Cooper Communities Inc., and Dallas-based Club Corp. of America announced a joint venture to build a \$7.4 million private membership golf course and country club here. The golf club, named Diamante, will feature an 18-hole, 7,500-yard golf course.

Access to the course will be limited to property owners and their guests of the 320 single-family homes and 130 townhomes to be developed around the course.

Cooper's first private golf course holding will be sodded with zoysiagrass and the greens will be seeded with bentgrass. It is scheduled for completion for spring 1995.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



Ill. course likely to be built despite protest by American Indian groups

NEW LENOX, Ill. — The \$4.2 million golf course development is still a "go" here despite protests from Aboriginal Americans.

The proposed golf course parcel is located where a 400-yearold early American grave site and ancient villages were unearthed last year.

Bill McCollum, the park district director, said the district has the right to develop the land because it has complied with a federal law that requires the site be surveyed first for its archaeological significance.

The course is scheduled to open in 1996.

The park district is hoping it can net \$461,000 in the first year of operation and possibly as much as \$1 million annually by the year 2000

With the money, McCollum said, the district hopes to build a swimming pool, a recreation center and a museum where Aboriginal Americans could display some of the items found at the course site.

Golf course opponents vow bond fight

CAHOKIA, Ill. — A group of residents plans to fight a \$5 million bond issue to pay for the construction of an 18-hole golf course here on 160 acres of land owned by the village.

Opponents of the course are concerned it won't generate enough money to pay off the bonds, and taxes would have to increase. "We're going to try to gather enough signatures to put it on the [November] ballot," resident Jasper Spears told the *Belleville News-Democrat*.

However, a feasibility study performed by an independent Atlanta-based company, Golf Resources Associates (GRA), found the golf course

would support itself. GRA projects 36,650 rounds of golf would be played during the first year of operation, generating \$187,643.

Dick Gundlach, president of Fairway Golf Development Corp., the firm charged with designing and building the course, said construction could begin in May and the course ready for play next fall if there is no referendum.

If it goes to referendum, lost revenue would be \$500,000 and the cost of construction could go up as high as \$1 million, Gundlach said.

The golf course is one of three municipal courses proposed in St. Clair County.

Planning board OKs proposed Indiana track

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — A proposed residential golf community in the northeast of town has been approved by the Allen County Plan Commission.

Colonial Development Corp. expects to begin construction in midsummer of the 368-acre subdivision, which includes an 18-hole golf course intertwined with 500 homes.

The Commission was concerned over the gas and oil wells on 20 acres at the north end of the property. Therefore, the commission stipulated the rights of the parcel's one active well — owned by Pioneer Drilling Co. of Payne, Ohio — must be resolved before the development can proceed.

West Chicago studying new nine-hole layout

WEST CHICAGO, Ill. — The West Chicago Park District is looking into the possibility of building a nine-hole course here, at Joliet and Wilson streets.

The district has asked golf consultant GreenVisions to study the feasibility of the idea, said Jim Jones, chairman of the park board's Golf Feasibility Committee

Jones reported that a representative of the Northbrook-based firm said the park's 57 acres are good material for a course.

Jones expects the park district would be cheaper and easier to play than other area courses.

Major overhaul for Wis. facility

MUKWONAGO, Wis. — New owners of the Rainbow Spring Resort here plan to overhaul the complex and expand the golf course. The complete overhaul is expected to take five years. Golden Springs Investments acquired Rainbow Springs for \$4.2 million at a bankruptcy auction in January.





Paul Ellwood Test Course Supt. Phoenix, Arizona

"I'm very impressed to see a heavy-duty cutting unit that can follow ground contours as well as perform well on both bermuda and rye."



George Cook Test Course Supt. Bradenton, Florida

"We put over 580 hours on the unit and had very few problems. It's nice to know John Deere is interested in our input."



Lyman Hanley Test Course Supt. Tempe, Arizona

"We scalped for overseeding last fall. I was amazed at how this machine went in and cut everything in one pass."



Mike Lentz Project Manager Horicon, Wisconsin

"We made a number of modifications based on what we learned in the field. The testing and feedback were critical to this project's success."

Neighbors of Minnesota layout seek environmental report

PAYNESVILLE, Minn. — Poised for a nine-ness, and casual golfers themselves, Linda hole expansion, the Koronis Hills Golf Course has run up against a town couple bearing a 33signature petition asking the golf course first complete an environmental assessment worksheet.

Following years of effort, organizers have completed an architectural plan to expand the course to 18 holes and have raised nearly half of the \$500,000 construction cost. The addition now must wait as a yet-to-be-determined regulatory unit decides whether or not the golf course is required to complete the worksheet.

The owners of a successful insurance busi-

Liestman and Larry Ellis do not want to stop the course expansion, they just don't want it to occur where it is proposed - directly north of 106 acres they own. The couple is seeking to protect land they have enrolled in wetland preservation and land trust easements, according to the West Central Tribune.

Although they would prefer the golf course to expand to the east, Liestman and Ellis are open to compromise, even if it means development on the disputed land. Liestman said one proposal would be to enroll the golf course in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

Lawsuit holds up financing of proposed Tenn. municipal track

OAKRIDGE, Tenn. — Because to a lawsuit filed by area residents,

town officials here received no bids for a \$6.2 million, 12-year capital outlay note to help finance a proposed golf course. The lawsuit, seek-

ing a permanent injunction against issuing the notes, was filed by a group of residents who feel the partnership between the city and the developers is illegal.

The residents have indicated that the city is trying to lend its

> credit to the developers — The Cowperwood Co. and Ridge Realty without specific voter approval.

Because of the lawsuit, town officials had to remove the notes

from the market and can't put them back out for bids until the lawsuit is settled, said Fiona Hill, Oak Ridge's acting corporate law-

Golf participation remains flat, NGF study reports

JUPITER, Fla. — U.S. golf participation remains in a holding pattern that began three years ago shortly after the nation's economy flattened out, according to the National Golf Foundation's 1994 edition of Golf Participation in the

The report puts the total number of golfers for 1993 at 24.5 million players and the estimated total rounds played at 499 million, basically the same as a year ear-

The figures might have been higher if not for bad weather that plagued many parts of the country - soggy springs in the Northeast and Northwest, extreme summer heat in the Southeast and severe spring flooding in the Upper Mississippi River basin.

The five-year annual growth rate for golfers is 1.3 percent and rounds played 0.6 percent.

California tops all states in number of golfers with 2.8 million.

Minnesota leads the nation in participation rate with 19.4 percent of its 12-and-over population playing golf.

AGC adds four new courses in West and Midwest regions

SANTA MONICA, Calif.-American Golf Corporation (AGC), has added four new public courses to its growing inventory.

The four new AGC courses consist of The Links at Northfork, in Ramsey, Minn.; Lake Wilderness Golf Course in Maple Valley. Wash.; Summitpointe Golf Club in San Francisco; and the Arrowhead Golf Club in Auburn Hills,

The Links at Northfork is American Golf's first course in Minnesota.

Lake Wilderness is AGC's second public course in Washington. Summitpointe is scheduled to

undergo a \$500,000 renovation. Arrowhead features three ninehole, par-36 courses.



No one can accuse John Deere of rushing products to the marketplace-especially not the new 3215 and 3235 Turf System Mowers.

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If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, simply return it to your distributor within 30 days or the first 100 hours (whichever comes first) for a full refund.



Golf industry needs a lobbyist of its own

he golf course industry has a simple but nevertheless enormous problem in our nation's capital. Image and perception are everything in Washington, and golf is sorely lacking on both counts:

· For those of you waiting to see whether the Clinton Administration would follow through with its commitment to reduce pesticide use, you can stop waiting. The legislation was introduced in May and it will be difficult for Congress to stand in opposition.

· The national media increasingly depicts golf courses as flash points in the environmental debate. The Wall Street Journal article, "Golf Courses Are Denounced as Health Hazards," run on May 2, is only the most recent example (see my editor-to-editor response at right). As for Paul Harvey... well, don't get me

· And despite the monumental growth of publicaccess golf—and the fact that two-thirds of the nation's courses are open to anyone — the sport is still seen as a pastime for rich, white males who discriminate against women and minorities while erecting their new play-



grounds atop environmentally sensitive lands or ancient burial grounds.

It's time the golf course industry pools its efforts and resources, and the first step should be a golf-only lobbyist in Washing-

Now, before I go any further, a word should be said about RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), the specialty chemical trade association. RISE and its executive director, Allen James, have

done a creditable job representing golf's interest. But the job is too big and RISE has plenty to occupy itself outside the golf realm.

Further, sending a lobbyist to Washington is just what the golf industry needs to pull people and organi-

For a while there, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) seemed determined to go it alone. But the superintendents have changed their ways, as exhibited by their recent cooperation with the United States Golf Association (USGA) and

Continued on next page

's time for golfers to pay their fair share

Mark Leslie,

ver the years, the entire golf industry has borne the cost of turfgrass research. The United States Golf Association, private industry, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and state and regional chapters have all gone to great lengths to raise money, then given it away to scientists investigating everything from pesticide fate to low-input turfgrasses.

managing editor Now it's time for the end-user — the golfer - to pitch in. Golfers are, after all, the beneficiaries of the lifetime of hard work superintendents and their crews devote to creating perfect playing conditions.

The Arizona green industry took a severe blow this spring when two legislators killed legislation that would have assessed 10 cents per round of golf, with the funds bankrolling research. The entire golf industry reeled, stunned by that debacle. Similar legislation is in effect in various states supporting research in citrus, agriculture and other industries. Superintendents and scientists around the country expected to push for this type of law. That may still happen.

But in the meantime, others are undeterred in their own innovative efforts to raise funds.

Dick Stuntz of Alvamar Country Club in Lawrence, Kan., may have pioneered another way to skin this

cat - using mailings to GIN Handicap users to ask for donations for research (see page 13). Stuntz and his green industry colleagues in Kansas should be lauded. They and others must have unique ideas to pass on. We welcome the chance to be a clearinghouse for these ideas, tried or untried. Multiply a \$2 donation by the number of golfers applying for handicaps in America and the potential is truly enormous for the Kansas-type fund-raising alone.

The industry could take the lead from organizers of the Herman Sani Fund in Iowa, which provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors. For 30 years they have raised funds at state tournaments. Sometimes it's voluntary. Other time, a donation is simply added to tournament charges.

There must be myriad solutions to the money problem. One thing is certain: "A worker is worthy of his wages." And scientists from the University of Massachusetts to the University of Arizona continue to solve problems affecting golf courses.

They should get the support they need. And golfers should be among the supporters.

Earthquakes and mass murders grab the page 1

headlines - and rightfully so. Yet disasters some-Continued on page 44

WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORT OFF THE MARK

(The following letter was dispatched to the Wall Street Journal following its publication of the story, "Golf Courses Are Denounced as Health Hazards," on May 2.)

To the editor,

Headline aside, Timothy Noah's story on golf courses and the environment (May 2) was balanced and thoughtfully researched. However, the contention that golf courses apply seven times more pesticides than do farmers and homeowners is yet another example of political hyper-

The farming vs. golf debate (and just who applies more pounds of chemical per treated acre) has raged for some time, and citing the now infamous 1991 study from the N.Y. Attorney General's office has become commonplace. Unfortunately for the environmental lobby, it's the only study in recorded history that supports its argument. Further, the study's lead researcher has long disputed the AG's final "edit," which enabled the study's conclusion to match its initial intent - namely, to paint golf courses as environmentally voracious.

Compared to farmers, golf courses do not apply as much pesticide per treated acre — a fact the British environmental movement has accepted for decades. In addition, if a golf course covers 150 acres, less than half the acreage is actually treated, whereas farmers spread pesticides wall to wall. Furthermore, on golf

Continued on next page

BORDER COLLIES NEEDN'T BE PUREBREDS

To the editor:

In response to your "On The Green" article in the March edition of Golf Course News, I have owned a border collie since 1983. His name was Samson. Unfortunately, I had to put him to sleep, because of leukemia, which his mother had also died from. Since his death I was able to find another border collie, named Divits, Border collies were raised to herd sheep, and for the most part they do it instinctively, so doing the same with geese comes as a natural instinct. Both dogs took to chasing geese within a few months after I acquired them. Samson cost me nothing and Divits only cost me \$180.

With Samson, the mention of geese would excite him, and he would start looking everywhere for them. If the geese found their way into a pond, he would follow and chase them, until they would

give up and fly away. When Samson died, I knew I would have to get another border collie, so I went on a search for one. I found a place where they had a border collie with what I think had some husky in him. I was not sure he would take to herding geese as well as Samson had. The first few months he seemed to not even notice the geese, but they sure did notice him. As soon as they saw him, they flew away. After about two months, Divits started chasing animals. By the third month he understood the word geese, and would start looking for them, until he found them. I had another dog, who loves to chase geese.

I guess, what I am trying to tell you is that border collies do love to chase geese, and you do not have to spend \$2,000 for a perfect dog to get rid of geese. I did talk to Richard Marcks, owner of the border collie, Tac, you wrote of in your article, and his dog was trained exceptionally well. But border collies do tend to obey their masters instinctively, and neither of my dogs has ever gotten into a situation where the geese were going to drown them. His dogs are also trained not to bark, and I have vet to figure out how to keep mine from barking. If you do not have \$2,000 to buy a dog to rid the golf course of geese, I would still recommend a border collie, just one you will have to train yourself.

> Thomas F. Dale, CGCS Radnor Valley Country Club Villanova, Pa.

CAPTURING THE 'FLAVOR OF THE WADSWORTH WAY'

To the editor:

I would really like to thank you for writing such a wonderful article about Wadsworth, its legacy and the people who have had the opportunity to be associated with this outstanding firm. Not only was your article accurate, but was extremely well written and I think that it encompassed the flavor of the Wadsworth Way.

I am particularly grateful that you mentioned that Mr. Wadsworth and the Wadsworths' team-work being on a spiritual level. Because, you know when all is said and done the most important things are relationships between people, not money or power or status or recognition and I truly think the most successful people in the world are the ones that are the most humble.

Mr. Wadsworth has been able to demonstrate that when you place the clients' needs above yours and also above all else, you will succeed.

Your article portrays this very nicely. All in all, it was a wonder-

> Craig Schreiner ASGCA, ASLA Kansas City, Mo.



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Now's time to reeducate golfers, and ourselves

By DAMIAN PASCUZZO

We all seem to be in agreement that the golf course of tomorrow will be simple, environmentally unobtrusive and economical. Maintenance will be greatly reduced and fewer chemicals will be used. Rough and other out-of-play areas will be unirrigated, thus saving on water usage. Hazards will be areas gone to native plants, sand wastes or wetlands. Cattails and rushes will grow at the edges of water hazards.

The course will be cheaper to build and maintain, and the green fees, if it is a public course, may be incrementally lower. The course will be walked by a more fitnessminded golfer and no one will feel pressured to take a cart.

To those who like their landscaping formal and ornamental, the future could be disappointing. Gone will be timber bulkheads around greens, flower beds, fountains, and uniformly lush green grass in every fairway. The homogenization of courses will disappear. Players who go on vacation to the beach or mountains will find those courses nothing like the ones they left at home. Whatever the character of the original land (open hills, woods, marsh, dunes or desert) that character will remain.

Don Knott, the new president of the

Damian Pascuzzo is a lead designer with Robert Muir Graves Limited in Walnut Creek, Calif.

American Society of Golf Course Architects, has suggested a return to a less structured arrangement of holes which will allow many sites to be developed that are presently considered unsuitable. There may not be two returning nines (George Thomas wrote in the 1920s that this concept almost always compromises

design). There will be no guaranteed number of par 3s, 4s and 5s, or their lengths. There may even be an odd number of holes instead of the predictable nine or 18.

Yes, this means golfers may not always have a standardized par-72 score like the Tour pros on television. So, they might be forced to go to match play, to pick the ball up, to move around the course at a much faster pace — and probably enjoy the game more.

So, if we all believe this is the right direction, why do we seem to be edging into this brave tomorrow at a snail's pace? The general fear seems to be the golfer simply won't buy it. If that is the case, why do so many American players make pilgrimages to St. Andrews, the very model (ironically enough) of the course of tomorrow, and come away saying, "This is the way golf should be."

No, the public isn't the problem. It's us ... architects, developers, golf pros, course superintendents and the golf media. It's we who taught the American golfer to like



lush, perma-green parkland courses, to think that zippy little golf cars are a big part of the fun, and to believe that it's okay to learn the game right on the course with no sense of rules, etiquette or the rudiments of a swing.

Since we taught golfers the wrong way, it's up to us to reeducate them now.

Developers of golf-residential projects have always assumed homeowners wanted a seamless blending of manicured turf into their front yards. Now we find homeowners turning their yards into wildflower meadows and planting unthirsty vegetation. Maybe these residents are ahead of us. What's wrong with natural rough separating the course from the backyards?

PGA professionals could do a lot to educate their players on what a true course should be. Pros should be the ones to instruct new players in rules and etiquette, on speedy play, on responsibilities in course maintenance like fixing divots, and, of course, in developing a good enough swing that the player can keep the ball reasonably in play.

If there is a transition away from the golf car, pros should lead the way, convincing a new generation of golfers that the course can be played more successfully and enjoyably on foot.

Superintendents can do much to lead the march away from the "green is beautiful" obsession. For instance, many courses that get heavy play would profit from planting Bermudagrass, but there is a concern players will resist the plant's brown winter phase.

Superintendents can help educate players on how the obsession with green and the idea the ball must be playable anywhere on the course is not what golf is about.

The golf media's support of this movement (sometimes called naturalism) is essential. Despite the ink invested in the phenomenon of naturalism, the new and old course rankings still line up with the "green is beautiful" crowd. Why shouldn't there by style points in rankings for natural beauty, a "good walking course," minimal maintenance and chemical usage, and low green fees?

Bringing naturalism criteria into the rankings would change things overnight. And why not regular features in the golf press on the new drift in golf course design?

Certainly, we golf course architects must assume some responsibility. It is true we serve the client. But that doesn't excuse us from the responsibility of wise counsel on environmental matters, low maintenance, and selling the game as an adventure for the golfer, not just another numbers exercise.

We also can, through our national association, pressure the media to start evaluating and ranking courses on some criteria other than biggest, costliest and greenest.

The important thing is that we're all in this together. No single group within the golfindustry can, alone, change the public's attitude. It serves all of our interests to develop as many courses as possible within the environmental constraints we face and the scarcity of quality land.

But the job requires a massive attitude adjustment to get everybody under the tent - an education process that will require all of our best efforts.

So, what are we waiting for?

Phillips commentary Continued from previous page

Funding the lobbyist would be shared among the various golf organizations, a veritable flood of acronyms in pro-active cooperation: GCSAA, USGA, NGF, PGA, PGA Tour, LPGA, ASGCA. Sharing the cost of a golf lobbyist would do more to bring these groups together than anything the Sierra Club might

Once the lobbyist has been hired and sent to the "Seat of Power," there should be two main messages; one for legislators and the general public, the other for the golf industry itself.

- · Our new lobbyist should concentrate on conveying the following message to Congress and the public at large: Man owns land. Man wants to make money. Man might develop a mall or upscale condo complex. Or man might develop a golf course. But the land will be developed... Which would you rather have: An asphalt jungle or grassy open space?
- · The second message will be harder, because we in the golf course industry must heed it: Basically, the industry in general and manufacturers in particular must get out in front of the environmental debate.

Chemical manufacturers have been doing this for some time because they have been under attack from the start. But make no mistake: Fertilizers, aerators, golf cars and mowers will be next.

Don't wait for the green movement to set its sites on your segment of the industry. Start promoting the environmental safety of your products right now. Don't merely position yourselves as "environmentalist" - position yourselves as "pro-actively environmentalist." Big difference. And don't be afraid to discuss how much better, how much safer your products are now compared to 20 years ago. Don't be afraid of this perceived admission of guilt.

That's what our lobbyist will tell us. Let's hire him and give him listen.

Journal response

Continued from previous page

courses, pesticides are applied to areas covered with turfgrass, one of nature's most effective filtration systems. Farmers apply the stuff to more porous, tilled soil, through which liquid pesticide treatments leech far more easily.

No one dares pooh-pooh the findings of Iowa State University epidemiologist Dr. Burton Kross, whose study showed elevated levels of cancer in golf course superintendents who died between 1970 and 1992. However, those superintendents cited in the study worked on golf courses during the 1950s and '60s, when arsenic- and mercury-based chemicals were commonplace - on farms and golf courses. The federal Environmental Protection Agency has seen fit to ban these compounds.

The EPA has also seen fit to approve the chemicals currently applied on golf courses. Golf course superintendents follow label instructions religiously, more strictly than any other applicator group, including farmers, pest control operators, roadside vegetation managers and lawn care workers (Source: Sandoz National Environmental Poll 1994, conducted by the Gallup Organization). I think it's also fair to assume golf course superintendents are more careful applying chemicals than the average homeowner, who has no agronomic training or unannounced visits

It's interesting this argument almost always pits farming against golf; man's most revered profession against a pastime of rich, white males. It's an attack on elitism as much as anything else. But while we're on the subject, how many farm-related bird kills has the N.Y. state department of conservation recorded since 1971?

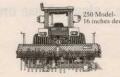
> Hal Phillips, editor Golf Course News



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CIRCLE #108



IN NEW JERSEY'S "BROWN PATCH ALLEY... I'VE HAD GREAT SUCCESS WITH DACONIL 2787"."



Tim McAvoy,
Superintendent,
Fox Hollow Golf Club
Somerville,
New Jersey

"This part of New Jersey might be called 'Brown Patch Alley," exclaims Tim McAvoy, certified golf course superintendent at Fox Hollow Golf Club in Somerville, NJ. "The terrain, the soil, and the grasses we grow seem to make us more susceptible." Fortunately, Tim has found that Daconil 2787® Flowable Fungicide from ISK Biosciences Corporation "has a great ability to stop Brown patch every time."

Stops Dollar spot, too!

Fox Hollow's greens are bentgrass, Tim says,

"and unfortunately, *Poa annua*." Recently renovated tees are 100% bentgrass, while the fairway grass is a combination of fescue, rye and *Poa*. That makes the fairways more susceptible, he believes, to Brown patch and Dollar spot.

"The fairways are where I use Daconil 2787 most," he says. "Starting in late June, I pretty much follow a 10- to 14-day preventive schedule for both diseases.

"We try to make good use of all the products and cultural practices available to us," Tim adds. "We use a slow-release urea-type fertilizer in

the spring and then little or no nitrogen until September. We watch the water so we're not exceptionally wet, and we dethatch and do some other things to keep the microclimate as cool as possible when the turf is under the most stress."

Tank mixing saves time.

Besides great Brown patch and Dollar spot control, superintendents get still another important benefit from Daconil 2787: "The flowable formulation is compatible with so many other products," says Tim, "I can tank-mix and knock out two or three diseases. With so much acreage, tank mixing really helps me stay within my personnel budget."

And with Daconil 2787 as the cornerstone of Tim's disease-control program, he doesn't have to worry about disease resistance, either: "As far as Daconil 2787 is concerned, I don't think there's ever been a documented case of resistance. I've always had great success with Daconil 2787."

Have you got a Daconil 2787 success story? Tell us about it. If we use your story in an ad, we'll donate \$100 to your favorite charity. Write Jackie Tengler, ISK Biosciences Success Stories, 5885 Landerbrook Dr., Suite 215, Cleveland, OH 44124.

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BRIEFS



MOSQUITO MARAUDER

LOS ANGELES — Got mosquito problems? Garlic Research Labs says it has a cure. The firm's Garlic Barrier, an allgarlic-and-water product, is sprayed on turfgrass and is said to last six to eight weeks, even if the turf is watered. "Once sprayed, the odor of garlic disappears in about two minutes," said Managing Partner William A. Anderson. "We call it 'odorless garlic." Garlic Barrier is EPA-registered. Garlic Research Labs is located at 3550 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Los Angeles, Calif 90010; 213-386-5300.

...... **ELECTRONIC PESTICIDE REFERENCE**

NEW YORK CITY - Electronic Pesticide Reference, a computer program consolidating the 3rd Edition Turf & Ornamental Chemicals Reserence and two books on crop protection chemicals, has been released by C&P Press, Inc. The program's key features are full-text labels for more than 800 products and more than 1,000 full-text MSDSs; interactive indexes and product summaries; hazardous chemical reporting information by product; and Department of Transportation shipping information by product More information is available from C&P at 888 Seventh Ave., Suite 2800, N.Y., N.Y. 10106; telephone 800-544-7377

MORE BANS ON LEAF BLOWERS

Connecticut and Illinois municipalities are leading the nation's movement toward banning leaf blowers. Passed as noise ordinances or to stop use of the gas-powered models, the laws sometimes restrict their use to certain hours of the day, sometimes to certain months of the year. Among the communities with bans are Greenwich, Conn., Highland Park and Wilmette, Ill., and Los Altos, Calif.

TURF 'N SURF

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association's annual conference and show will be held Sept. 18-21 at Broward County Convention Center here. Golf and fishing will be sidelights to this four-day event featuring educational sessions, workshops, research technology and exhibits.

..... **GREEN EXPO MANAGEMENT UNCHANGED**

Despite months of searching for a new management firm, Green Industry Expo officials have retained the Profes-



sional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) as show manager. The showcombines the trade shows and conferences of the Professional

Grounds Management Society, Associated Landscape Contractors of America and the PLCAA, which has managed it since 1990.

Kansas golf industry eyes golfers as donors

By MARK LESLIE

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Kansas green industry has embarked on a novel endeavor with "enormous" potential, aiming to tap into the good will of golfers to raise support for turfgrass research.

Golfers using the GIN Handicap system are being asked in their billing document to donate \$2 above their \$9 payment to the Kansas Golf Association (KGA). In Kansas, 19,000 golfers use GIN, according to Dick Stuntz, superintendent at Alvamar Country Club in Lawrence, Kan., who has coordinated the effort through the Kansas Turfgrass Foundation (KTF) and KGA.

"We're small," Stuntz said. "But in states like Michigan, which has 80,000 GIN users, the potential is enormous."

Money raised in Kansas will fund research at Kansas State University. But research facilities around the country are starving for support, having been struck with major decreases in government aid in recent years. Success in Kansas could bode well for similar efforts elsewhere.

members have privately discussed this project for four or five years, Stuntz said. He presented it to the KGA board last December.

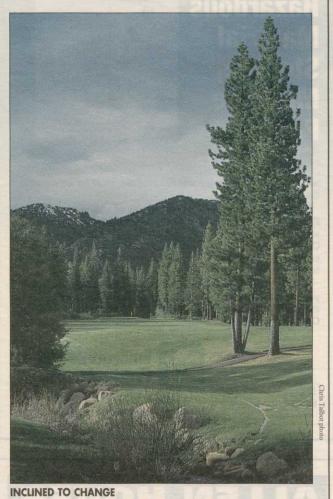
Since handicapping services are competitive - and therefore priceconscious — the KGA hesitated to mandate the \$2 charge, Stuntz said. But it approved KTF instituting a method to solicit funds on a voluntary

The KTF first sent letters to the 160 to 170 clubs themselves explaining the campaign. It followed up with a reminder in March and with a letter to course superintendents in early April. Superintendents were asked "to go to their clubs and sell the

program," Stuntz said.

"They know the decision-makers at their club. We don't ... What it will take is for each superintendent to lobby their club to add this amount on to the normal handicap charge. This system has the capability

Continued on page 21



Superintendent Gary Skolnik and Director of Golf Mike Hair have spearheaded renovations at nationally ranked Incline Village in Lake Tahoe. (See Super Focus feature, page 16.)

UMBERLAND, Maine — Saying every cultural, biological and chemical practice possible should be used to manage turfgrass, yet stressing that fewer pesticides are available, Dr. Noel Jackson has urged golf course superintendents to heighten the cut of grass.

To heck with golfers, cut grass

higher, Jackson urges supers

"Everyone," he said, "mow at 3/16 [inch] and no less and to heck with the golfer. Do this and you'll grow great grass."

"Think about 1/8 [inch]," Jackson told the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association. "A grass plant manufactures [by photosynthesis] sugars and carbohydrates in its leaf tissues. How much tissue have you left on a bentgrass blade cut to 1/8 [inch]? Very little. So here it is, trying to photosynthesize to generate reserves so it can push up more leaf, and you come along and knock it down to 1/8 inch again — every day of the week and 20-some Sundays. And you tell me I'm an idiot for telling you not to mow it at 1/8 inch.

"I'm trying to impress on you: Never manage turf to the quality people expect nowadays, without pesticides.'

Yet, he asked: "What's happening to the fungicides? Where has Dyrene gone? Where's Tersan 1991 gone? Where have the mercury fungicides gone? What are your alternatives?

Against Takeall Patch, the immensely effective PMA [phenyl mercury acetate] contains mercury and is no longer on the

Against gray snow mold, mercury fungicides "work like a charm." But, again, no more will be for sale after June.

Against leaf spot, one of the best fungicides is Dyrene, but it will not be sold any more. It would cost \$5 million to re-register Dyrene, but only \$1 million worth of the product is sold a year.

Continued on page 18

Soil labs far apart on pH in blind tests

By HAL PHILLIPS

FAR HILLS, N.J. - Soil-testing laboratories have, for the most part, fared well in a blind test procedure nearly completed by the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section.

"The majority [of the labs] were very close on all of the characteristics," said Green Section Director Jim Snow. "Certain labs are off on some characteristics. In some cases, they're making some simple mistakes because they're off on both

"A lot of people were off on pH, and it's hard to imagine why they would get that

The USGA is funding and conducting this blind test of soil laboratories to determine which firms are abiding by USGA protocol, and which are not.

"These are the labs that have agreed to

abide by our protocols," noted Snow. "This is the first time we have tried to check and see what they're up to. We want to be sure they're following protocol. We'd also like to be sure they understand the protocol."

Some 13 labs were sent the same two soil samples, independently, from soilmixing firms cooperating with the USGA. Laboratories were asked to evaluate the samples in terms of infiltration rates, porosity, moisture retention, pH and other

Most of the returns are in, said Snow. Once both sets of samples have been processed and returned, the USGA will compile all the results and take the appropriate action.

"We're not going to kick labs off the list if their results don't add up," he said. "We want to work with them to make sure the

Continued on page 21

Professors say mixing can broaden benefits

GREENSBORO, N.C. - Tank mixing fungicides is not a new concept for many turf managers, but they may not be aware of the variety of benefits that the right combinatin can provide, according to turfindustry researchers. The researchers pointed out that mixing fungicides with different modes of action can achieve better control of a broader spectrum of major turf diseases, as well as additional turf management benefits.

According to Dr. Karl Danneberger, associate professor of turfgrass science at Ohio State University, tank mixing can solve a number of turf management problems. For example, Danneberger noted that a tank mix

Continued on page 16

ON THE CHEEN

The Styrofoam Solution: Ross cures North's spring sprinkler problems

T e used to rip our hair out," said Kevin Ross about Northern superintendents emerging from winter to find that frost heaves had pushed up many of their sprinkler heads, which had to be dug up and reset. But he has discovered a simple and cheap solution to this age-old problem — a solution colleague Chuck Ravis said should have "ramifications throughout the northern tier of the

country, wherever you get serious frost in the ground.'

Styrofoam. After four winters of testing - even shoveling snow off the ground "to drive the frost as deep as it would go" - Ross has found a 2- by 2-foot piece of one-inch Styrofoam is worth more than its weight in gold. It translates to money — and many man-hours — saved.

"After two years, it [Styrofoam] looks very promising," said Ross, superintendent at Falmouth (Maine) Country

Club. "It's a renewable source. It's light, so it's easy to put out and bring in. Storage is easy. After the initial investment, you may have to replace a few pieces each year, but generally we're talking minor costs."

"It worked wonders this year," agreed Ravis, who followed Ross' lead in his own experiments starting in 1992 at Augusta (Maine) Country Club. "I think it will take off [among superintendents]. I'd like to see it used a couple more

years before I endorse it beyond a shadow of a doubt. But it has great possibilities.

"Four or five years ago, when I started this [experiment], every super thought I was nuts," Ross chuckled. "They don't think so any more."

He pointed to the reduction in manhours for irrigation: 1,700 in 1990 before he started his experiments; 650 in 1993.

He pointed to the \$10 to \$12 an hour he no longer has to pay for labor to reset heads. Ravis estimated it takes two workers, paid \$7 per hour, a half an hour to reset each sprinkler head ("and that's if it goes correctly"), so the Styrofoam saves \$700 to \$1,000 on labor just to fix the heads.

When he fully institutes his program next winter, Ross estimates he will average 500 to 600 labor hours in irrigation. He has eliminated an irrigation position that encompassed 30 weeks a year, 30 hours a week.

The insulation from Styrofoam, according to Ross and Ravis, also protects the heads themselves and the fittings and swing joints underneath them.

Also, Ross said: "I have separate gate valves at each fairway head. I used to have problems with them cracking. At one time it was not uncommon to replace 20 a year - for about \$30 each. This year, I doubt if we do more than five.'

"I'm convinced," Ravis added, "that because we kept the heads from heaving and putting stress on the main line and swing joint, we stopped the breakage we usually experience in springtime. It's hard to put a [savings] figure on that, but it's worth a lot to avoid."

Ross used two- to three-inch-thick wafers of two-foot diameter oak to weight down the Styrofoam, while Ravis settled for eight- and 12-inch spikes. Ross also warned superintendents trying this method to treat the turfgrass around the heads for winter-kill diseases before covering it with the Styrofoam.

In the meantime, Ross is also experimenting with Celotex insulation, which has foil backing on both sides. "That worked great," he said. "I think foil backing gives it extra strength."

When Ross started his experiments he used hay bales on 20 heads and insulation on another 20 of his total 380 heads. "That spring we had quite a few problems elsewhere, but all 40 of those heads were perfect," he said.

He added that hay was easy to place in the fall, riding down the fairways and dropping it on the heads. "But it's hard to pick up in the spring. It breaks, or freezes on the ground. And it is not reusable. We sell it for 50 cents a bale for mulch."

Last winter he cut one- and two-inchthick Styrofoam into sizes of two-bythree, two-by-two, 2-1/2-by-three and 1-1/2-by-three. "No matter what size I used, they worked," he said.

At Augusta Country Club, Ravis last fall covered all 240 sprinkler heads — 30 with Styrofoam and 210 with hay bales.

"I haven't had to touch a single head," he said, "and normally from my shop area alone, I can pick out 10 heads that have moved.

"Even if we had 10 on the entire course, that would be phenomenal."



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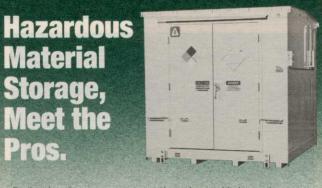
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The weather was not kind to golf course superintendents in the Eastern third of the Mid-Atlantic region, but the catastrophic loss of turf due to winter kill can ultimately prove to be an opportunity.

The winter of 1993-94 will be remembered as one of the worst in memory. Record snow and ice fell and temperatures were very cold. The problems began in areas where ice accumulated and stayed on the ground for an extended time. This is a rarity in the Transition Zone. Grass was killed. The most affected species were poa annua on greens, and perennial ryegrass and and Bermudagrass on fairways and tees.

Even in mid-May, courses were closed. Many were open but playing on temporary greens. Fairways had been entirely or partially reseeded. And winter-damaged Bermudagrass was just being replanted. By almost any measure, this has been a

The turfloss on courses cut across most all economic and social lines. Turf was killed on the most modest nine-hole courses to the largest and most prestigious 18-, 36- and 54hole complexes. What to make of it?

Basically, if weather patterns are extreme enough, and grass species are susceptible, the operating budgets on courses will not prevent or lessen the effects of the weather. Also, susceptible grass species are just that, susceptible to the type of damage experienced.

Will one year of damage be enough to persuade a golf course to change grasses? To change their philosophy of course maintenance? Maybe so, and maybe not.

If your course has greens of predominantly poa annua, the point was proven: This species on greens was the most affected. Bentgrass survived the extremes of the weather just fine. In preparing for the future, the more bentgrass a course has on greens, tees and fairways, the better. Of all the turfgrass species grown, especially on greens, poa annua is the most prone to both winter damage and summer heat-stress problems.

Interestingly, the winter turf loss may ultimately prove to be a blessing in disguise for some courses. Certainly, more creeping bentgrass exists now in most all the damaged greens, both due to the recovery from seed and the natural spread of any bentgrass present in the green

Also, on at least some courses which have had the most severely damaged greens, some are considering fumigating regrassing to pure bentgrass. The reason is simple: In the Transition Zone, the more bentgrass you have in the greens, the better. Regrettably, as this winter and a hot and humid summer have

Stanley J. Zontek is director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States Golf Association Green Section, and is based in West Chester, Pa.



Grabbing opportunity where disaster threatened

shown, the reverse is also true.

Therefore, the catastrophic loss of turf due to winter kill can ultimately prove to be an opportunity not to be missed. Regrassing is a good way to solve a longstanding poa annua problem with the greens, by establishing new bentgrass, be it the older, triedand-true varieties or some of the newer cultivars which have been released recently (see story, page 1).

Several courses whose golfers desired bentgrass fairways are using the winter kill as an opportunity to convert from perennial ryegrass. However, avast majority of courses with perennial rye fairways and tees are replanting to rye. The golfers like its appearance and playability, and the reasoning goes that it makes little sense to overreact to just one year of winter kill and replant to a different grass species.

If the winter problems continue, individual courses can always rethink this decision. For now, most of the damaged courses are replanting to perennial rye, thinking that the possibility of winter problems recurring are slim.

On winter-damaged Bermudagrass, most turf managers are replanting to Bermudagrass. If a course has been growing one of the Bermudagrasses least tolerant to winter kill, changing to a more winter-hardy species may be prudent. After all, in the Southern half of this region, where bentgrass tees and fairways exist, there are fewer grass options for fairways Winter damage to Bermudagrass is much more common. When it

occurs, you replant.

In the final analysis, following the hard winter of 1993-94, all a turf manager can do is:

- · plant/replant the best grass possible:
- · maintain the turf as best the budget allows;
- use proven agronomic practices to prepare any and all grasses for the winter (or summer); and
- · realize that as good as most of today's supers are, as good as our new grasses are, as thorough as our understanding of course management may be, maintaining turfgrass is still an inherently insecure job-"weather" we like it or not.

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ALWAYS OUT FRONT

Duo puts new face on Incline Village course for 30th

By DOUG SAUNDERS

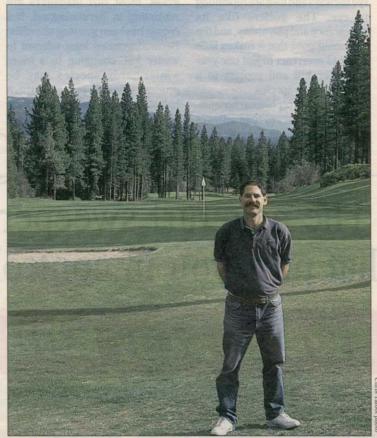
AKE TAHOE — "Two heads are better than one" has become an idiom of success at Incline Village, where two men trained in turfgrass management are leading an extensive overhaul of its nationally ranked Championship

Leading the restoration are two superintendents: director of golf Mike Hair, and head superintendent Gary Skolnik.

Located on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, Incline features a classic Robert Trent Jones Sr. design the architect once called the "ideal mountain golf course." The 6,915-yard layout rolls through thickly wooded, hilly terrain that offers spectacular views of Tahoe and the surrounding peaks of the Sierras.

The golf course is celebrating its 30th anniversary this summer. It was built as the centerpiece of Incline Village, a real-estate project that has grown into a thriving town. The Incline Village General Improvement District, which owns and operates the course, has undertaken an extensive overhaul of the course and its operations to make a resort worthy of recognition for the next 30 years.

Hair came to Incline from Colorado, where he was head super and general manager at South Suburban Country Club near Denver. His selection as Incline's director of golf in 1989 is testimony to the increasing number of superintendents moving into managerial posi-tions.



Superintendent Gary Skolnik is proud of the improvements at Incline Village.

The course had been run by various outside agencies and numerous superintendents for two decades. It was up to Hair to map out a strategy to bring the course up to its true potential.

"I had to approach it from two fronts — capital improvements and operational improvements," Hair explained. "To make things go, we needed to upgrade equipment and facilities first."

For years, maintenance was run out of a small area under a deck behind the snack bar. An

8,000-square-foot maintenance building took its place, while new machinery, irrigation system and carts were procured.

Three years ago, Hair hired Gary Skolnik from Bishop Country Club in eastern California. Skolnik was an avid golfer at a young age and also worked in landscaping through his teens. Blending these two loves led him to enroll in the turf management program at the College of the Desert in

The Wigwam and my favorite course, Spyglass, are both Trent Jones Sr. designs. So when I heard about the opening at Incline, I jumped at the chance.'

- Gary Skolnik, superintendent

Palm Springs.

Skolnik's two years at the college allowed him study under renowned turf specialist Melvin Robey, as well as do intern work at The Lakes and Mission Hills country clubs. He was the first graduate of the turf program to earn his Class A classification.

He took his knowledge and bilingual talents (Spanish) to secure work at Mission Hills, the Wigwam in Arizona, and Newport Beach Country Club. He took his first head superintendent's job at Bishop in 1990, but the opening at Incline intrigued him.

"The Wigwam and my favorite course, Spyglass, are both Trent Jones Sr. designs," Skolnik said. "So when I heard about the opening at Incline, I jumped at the chance. The fact that it was a beautiful place for my family also figured in my choice to come here.'

According to Hair: "Bringing Gary has been a major step for our operational improvement. His bilingual skills have helped develop a loyal staff of Latin workers. The basics of maintenance are easy, but it's the implementation that demands talent."

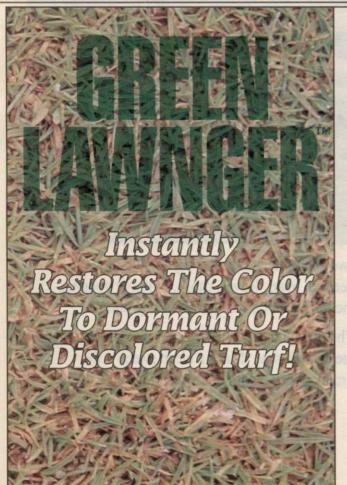
When Incline was built 30 years ago, construction crews had to deal with granite bedrock that held little topsoil. With little percolation or filtration, the course suffered from puddling and inconsistent conditions. Some fairways were built up with large granite boulders and covered with fill after the land had been logged out.

Skolnik's first priority was installation of a state-of-the-art irrigation system and new drainage lines. "We've put in over six miles of drainage in the last three years," said Skolnik, whose tenure at Incline has been longer than any other superintendent at the Lake Tahoe resort.

Soil samples also showed a high acidic content. To rectify this, Skolnik "sweetened" the soil with 140 tons of sugar beet lime. Walk-behind greens mowers were secured to develop smooth, fast putting surfaces.

Drought has had a major effect on the surrounding pine and fir forest. To deal with the threat of beetle infestation and more tree loss, Skolnik has been working closely with the Nevada Department of Forestry to implement a forest management program to sustain the wooded areas that surround the course.

"The trees make this golf course," said Skolnik. "It has to be a priority to save them.'



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Mixing can equal benefits

Continued from page 13

application of Banner systemic fungicide and Daconil 2787 contact fungicide provides longer-term control of dollar spot and brown

"Banner gives excellent control over dollar spot, while Daconil is strong against brown patch," said Danneberger. "Together, they actually expand the spectrum of disease control. This is a big benefit for turf managers when conditions favor both diseases

"The benefits don't end with disease control," he added. "Tank mixing is the best option in resistance management. By combining two different chemical modes of action, you greatly decrease the chance for development of insensitive strains."

Dr. Paul Vincelli, assistant professor of plant pathology at the University of Kentucky agreed tank mixing is a good way to avoid insensitivity problems. "I always recommend that turf managers avoid exclusive use of any one chemistry," he said. "Tank mixing two chemicals with different modes of action is one way to accomplish this." He said that during extreme disease pressure, tank mixing can be very effective. "There are times when conditions may be right for both dollar spot and brown patch. That's when a tank mix may take care of both problems."



Modified bunker sand rakes create hand-done look

ByTERRY BUCHEN
It is very interesting how bunker sand maintenance practices have evolved with the advent of the riding bunker rake. Prior to this evolution,

superintendents had their

bunkers hand-raked with wooden rakes of varying widths, with long wooden replaceable teeth. Because the bunker sand was not washed in the old days, the long wooden teeth would break up the caking effect caused by the fine particles of soil present and would stir up the sand to make playing conditions difficult, at best. Witness Oakmont CC in years past.

Along came the riding bunker rake in the 1960s, fitted with similar teeth of metal, or a cultivator-type bar followed by a finish rake that creates a nice appearance. These rakes have always worked well to break up the crust and fluff up the sand.

But beginning in the 1970s, a major evolution took place: Bunker sand quality was increasing tenfold as it was being washed, sometimes several times, to remove the fine particles — and golfers, especially, on the professional tours — were demanding that the playing conditions from bunker sand be much firmer.

During most tournaments on the amateur and professional circuits, bunker sand would



The "Sandpacker" attachments angle (left foreground) can be adjusted by the superintendent to custom-fit his bunker sand maintenance objective.

be raked by hand, using metal leaf rakes which do little to disturb the playing conditions while smoothing any irregularities. When a superintendent hosted a tournament which had large bunkers that were impractical to rake by hand because of time constraints, he would usually be allowed to use a riding bunker rake with leaf rakes attached in lieu of the OEM rake attachment.

This innovation spread to other superintendents who do not have national tournaments, and a new evolution began in

modifying riding bunker rakes to simulate hand-raking. This was also fun for superintendents, who love to modify equipment to our personal maintenance objectives.

The next progression was testing of bunker sand at soil labs to see if its particles were angular or round. Angular particles were the most desired because they settle and pack better. Tournament specifications require that bunker sand be installed at least 90 days prior to an event and that wetting agents and irrigation be used to help settle the sand properly. Most superintendents in the transition zone and cool-season regions add bunker sand in the fall or winter to allow it to settle and pack faster.

Manufacturers of riding bunker rakes have made adjustments, over the last few years, to the rake attachment by shortening the teeth and cultivar bar. They even have a different version of the leaf rake as an option.

The best new modification I have seen is the "Sandpacker" attachment that replaces the OEM cultivar bar. Its angle is adjustable for the type of sand firmness desired.

Another modification that has proved worthwhile, to be installed in conjunction with the "Sandpacker," is to add two additional

horizontal weights that fit easily over the two existing weights, simply by adding a longer size bolt. The added weight puts more "down" pressure on the rake, which firms up the sand even more and gives the bunker a handraked appearance.

During last year's U.S. Open telecast, it was interesting to note that when the course was set up for the championship, they intentionally fluffed up the sand to make the bunkers play like the hazard they are supposed to be. It will be interesting if this trend continues on courses other than those hosting amateur and professional tournaments and championships.

Superintendents mainly unaffected by PVP law

Golf course superintendents normally deal with certified name varieties of turfgrass, and therefore reportedly will not be affected like homeowners by Plant Variety Protection Act (see story, page 1).

"If you continue to deal with reputable dealers who know the source of seed and howit's grown, it will be business as usual," said Tom Salt, plant variety protection examiner with the Department of Agriculture's PVP Office. "I've always found golf course superintendents to be

very knowledgeable about the seed industry, and who they deal with."

Ten states do not allow Variety Not Stated labels, according to Leslie Cahill, vice president of governmental affairs for the American Seed Trade Association. They are Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Rhode Isalnd and South Carolina. Meanwhile, Virginia officials have discussed a registration list for VNS.

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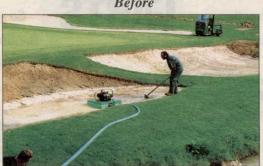
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URI professor recommends higher cut — for turf's sake, not golfers

Continued from page 13

"PCNB has good activity versus both gray and pink snow mold, but one year in five it fails. And the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] is breathing down its back, and I don't know how much longer it will be available," Jackson said.

One by one, pesticides have gone off the market, and it has become hugely expensive to finance new products, he added. Only a handful of new

and no less and to heck with the golfer. Do this and you'll grow great grass.'

Everyone, mow at 3/16 [inch]

- Dr. Noel Jackson



Dr. Noel Jackson

materials are released each year because of the lengthy, and costly, testing period.

Sentinel has finally been

registered by Sandoz after a sixyear struggle.

Rohm & Haas' Eagle has been in the works for seven years and is still not registered.

"The expense involved in producing a new chemical is increasing exponentially. It takes 10 years, \$50 million, and at the end of it if the rat dies, where are you?" Jackson said. "This is why you're being restricted [in what you can use]. And what you're seeing is, the agri-chemical industry is in a stage of siege."

In light of this, cultural practices will take on more and more importance in the care of

golf courses, he said.

Some tips from Dr. Jackson:

- · If frost heaves push turfgrass up, do not roll it. Let it subside to its natural level. "If rolled, you'll ruin it."
- · Be very careful to check the pH of top dressing material. "Sand can have a very high pH. Often it's up to 8 or 8.5 That is sufficient to raise the surface pH and encourage disease."
- · Use PCNB for leaf spot control and snow mold protection. But do not use PCNB above 65 degrees.
- · Check the pH of your water supply. "Often the pH of the water can be 9 or 10. That can trigger Takeall Patch.'
- "You can gain two weeks using turf covers. The further north, the more they can

But the problem with turf covers, he said, is knowing when to put them down and pull them off.

"If you gamble wrong, you're in big trouble. If you take it off and the temperature drops, you're worse off than if you never used the cover," he said.

U-Nebraska grad student given '94 Musser Scholarship

Jennifer M. Johnson-Cicalese has been awarded the Musser Foundation's 1994 Doctoral Award for Excellence.

The \$5,000 annual award is given to a student in the last year of their doctoral program who "demonstrates leadership in academic and extracurricular

Johnson-Cicalese, 36, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Rutgers University

and is preparing her doctoral thesis at the University of Nebraska on resistance to mealybugs among turftype buf-



Johnson-Cicalese

falograss selections. Drs. Terry Frederick Riordan and Baxendale are her major

"Professor Burton Musser was a turfgrass pioneer for four decades at Penn State University,' said foundation President Frank Dobie of The Sharon Club in Sharon Center, Ohio. "The foundation ... is dedicated to promoting that same kind of pioneering individual. Supporting this new generation of turfgrass scientists is the wisest move we can make."

Some \$57,000 has been awarded the past six years, Dobie



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CACTUS & PINE ELECTS RUPERT

Bill Rupert of Red Mountain Ranch in Fountain Hills has been elected president of Cactus and Pine Golf Course Supertintendents Association of Arizona.

Rupert, who succeeded Mark Clark of Country Club of Green Valley, is joined by

Vice President Kent Nevitt of Foothills Golf Course in Phoenix, Secretary Dennis Dulaney of Karsten Golf Course in Cave Creek and Treasurer Jeff Kidder of Camelback Golf Course in Scottsdale.



Directors are Don Flavell of the city of Mesa's Riverview Golf Course, Joe Forden of Arthur Park Desert Golf Course in Tucson, Neil Hladik of Antelope Hills Golf Course in Prescott, Jim Key of The Pointe and Hilton Resorts in Phoenix, Thomas A. Lintgen of Lakes East and West in Glendale, and Kirby Putt of Arizona Country Club in Phoenix.

TURF TALK '94

CHANDLER, Ariz. — Turf Talk '94, the turfgrass seminar hosted annually by Garden West, will be held Aug. 24 at the Sheraton San Marcos Hotel and Conference Center here

The full-day conference will cover environmental regulatory issues of the 1990s as well as new developments in fertilizer technology, alternatives for broadleaf weed control, crabgrass and goosegrass control, preparation for the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, effluent water for turfgrass irrigation and ornamental tree care and maintenance.

Further information is available from Garden West at 602-233-2966.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DONATION

DENVER, Colo. - Proceeds from the 40th turf conference held last December in Denver were donated to the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Research Foundation. A \$30,000 check was handed over to the foundation to be put toward turfgrass research and scholarship.

The addition of a silent auction to the conference helped raised another \$4,000 that will go to the Jackie Butler Memorial Endowment Fund. This fund is dedicated to turfgrass research, development and educational excellence.

SHOW MOVED

The 1994 Turf Conference and Trade Show will be held at the new Colorado Convention Center in Denver on Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1. For more information, call 303-688-3440.

North Central

MINNESOTA CHAPTER FORMED A Minnesota chapter of the Sports Turf

Managers Association has been formed. Interespeople may contact Tom Rudburg at the Uni-



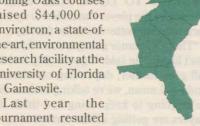
versity of St. Thomas, telephone 612-692-

Southeast

ENVIROTRON CLASSIC SET

HOMOSASSA SPRINGS, Fla. — The Florida Turfgrass Association's 2nd Annual Envirotron Golf Classic at World Woods

Golf Resort on the Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks courses raised \$44,000 for Envirotron, a state-ofthe-art, environmental research facility at the University of Florida in Gainesvile.



tournament resulted in an unprecedented

\$22,500 to benefit turf research. This year's goal was to raise contributions to purchase equipment for the facility.

MOLE CRICKET SPECIALISTS TO SPEAK

ST. SIMONS, Ga. - Extension entomologists Dr. Will Hudson from the University of Georgia, Dr. Pat Parkman from the University of Florida and Dr. Pat Cobb from Auburn University will speak at a seminar regarding the latest information in mole cricket control. Sponsored by the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association, the seminar will be held on June 22 at The King and Prince Hotel on St. Simons Island.

Included in the program will be a panel discussion with a question-and-answer session composed of superintendents Ralph Hinz of The Landings; Brigid Braun of Mantazas Woods Golf Course; Ron Hill of Amelia Island Plantation; and Tom Burton of Sea Island Golf Club. Following the seminar, a golf outing will be held at The Hampton Club.

PURVIS LEADING PALMETTO GCSA

Michael Purvis of Prestwick Golf Club in Surfside Beach, S.C., leads a new slate of officers for Palmetto Golf Course Superintendents Association, composed of turfgrass professionals along the Grand

Outgoing President Robert Zuercher of Blackmoor Golf Club passed the gavel on to Purvis, whose fellow officers are Vice President W. Patrick Donelan of Wild Wing Plantation in Myrtle Beach, Treasurer Tim Guthrie of Prestwick Golf Club, and Secretary Dr. Paul Alexander, retired director of Horry Georgetown Technical College's Golf Course Maintenance Program.

Bill Twigg of The Witch Golf Links in Conway and Robert Vaughn of Myrtle Beach National Golf Club in Conway are newly elected directors, joining Keith Floyd of Bay Tree Golf Plantation in North Myrtle Beach and David Downing II of Wild Wing Plantation.

Northeast

MAINE SUPERS DONATE

The Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association has given a \$1,000 grant in aid to Dr. Noel Jackson for his research studies at the University of Rhode Island. Maine GCSA President Pat Lewis of Portland Country Club pre-

sented the grant to Jackson before he addressed the group in April.



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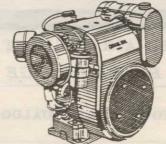
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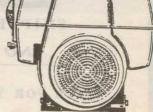
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Tour of Duty

MARK KUHNS Oakmont Country Club Oakmont, Pa. U.S. Open June 16-19, ESPN/ABC

Mark Kuhns is a Keystone Stater, through and through. A native of Ligonier, Pa., he matriculated to Penn State, where he earned his turf management degree in 1977. He stepped right into the head superintendent's position at Ligonier Country Club, then moved to nearby Laurel Valley where Kuhns worked under its longtime super, Art Zarnecki. Growing up, Kuhns had been a range boy at Laurel Valley and darn near idolized Zarnecki, he said. Zarnecki passed away shortly after Kuhns' arrival and the former range boy assumed the reins. He would stay at Laurel Valley for 12 years before accepting the job at Oakmont. This is his fourth year there and his third USGA Open Championship, having hosted the Senior Open at Laurel Valley and the Women's Open at Oakmont. "I just enjoy growing turf," said Kuhns. "I was the only kid in my neighborhood who liked mowing the lawn.'

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: "I like to keep things dry and lean here, and the members like that, too," said Kuhns. "It's healthier for turf."

Keen observers of the 1983 U.S. Open,

played at Oakmont and won by Larry Nelson, will notice a new tee on 17. Kuhns also explained that tees have been lengthened on 11 and 15, so players will encounter a course 50 to 60 yards longer this time around.



Mark Kuhns

"On TV, I always watch the ball roll on the green," said Kuhns. "I love the close camera shots. During the Open this year, I think people will notice the guys standing over putts, puckering a little bit. The severity of some of the slopes here is amazing. Our greens will be between 11 and 11.6. Our normal speeds are 11 and we approach 12 for some [club] tournaments."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: "Not much," Kuhns explained. "Everything we've done has been mainly to restore our course to its original architectural layout. It was built as a very penal course.

"Basically, we'll increase mowing a little bit to increase the density. Fairways at 7/ 16. Tees and collars at 3/8 of an inch. Rough will be very dense. It's been well fertilized. Everything's looking good.

"We had a little ice damage on two or three greens, but they've come around pretty well." JOE ALONZI
Westchester Country Club
Rye, N.Y.
Buick Classic
June 6-9, USA/CBS

Joe Alonzi, 45, arrived at Westchester Country Club in 1992, but he's always lived and worked around Metropolitan New York area. Born and raised in Westchester County, Alonzi graduated from Rutgers' two-year turf management program. He then accepted an assistant's position at Burning Tree in Greenwich, Conn. He became head superintendent at Huntington Crescent Club on Long Island, before moving to Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, N.Y. He arrived at Westchester CC eight weeks before the '92 Buick Classic.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Alonzi is amused by the players' aversion to up-and-back mowing patterns on the fairways.

"There's a rumor going around that they don't like it," he said. "I guess they feel the ball goes further, depending on where it lands — I mean, we're talking inches. But we're going to keep doing it. I think the players are getting a little carried away.

"Before the tournament, we do change to solid rollers on the fairway mowers to get dark colors in the striping."

Winter kill was a problem for most Mid-Atlantic courses, and Westchester was no exception.

"We had some — very little," Alonzi explained. "If the camera picks it up, you'll see it on number 9. We've done a lot of sodding in any place we've had winter kill. And we resod the bunker faces each year, regardless."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: Prior to full-blown tourney preparation, Alonzi and his staff watch a tape of the previous year's Buick Classic, looking for little things to improve.

"Last year," Alonzi said, "we had gallery ropes going through an unmaintained

Continued on next page

MARK STODDARD
TPC at Avenel
Avenel, Md.
The Kemper Open
June 2-5, USA/CBS

This year's Kemper Open will be a true trial by fire for Mark Stoddard, who arrived at the Tournament Players Club at Avenel in late March. With two months under his belt and the course recovering from its worst winter in 20 years, Stoddard is working overtime to prepare for his first PGA Tour

event and his first televised tournament. "I'm having fun already," he said with a trace of sarcasm and trepidation. Stoddard, 37, hails from Charleston, S.C., and earned his four-year degree in turf



Aark Stoddard

management from nearby Clemson University. Upon graduation, he went straight to Pinehurst where he served as an assistant superintendent. When Avenel beckoned this past winter, he was head superintendent at Swan Point Yacht & Country Club in Issue, Md. "The boonies," said Stoddard. From the boonies to the bigtime in one fell swoop.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR: Stoddard explained that Avenel sports an interesting mix of turf: zoysia fairways, Penncross greens, bent/zoysia tees and fescue roughs. This year's harsh Eastern winter had a particularly bad effect on Mid-Atlantic courses, and Avenel was not spared. The zoysia fairways were particularly hard hit.

"Basically, all the shaded and low-lying areas have been slow to come back," Stoddard explained. "The high and dry spots did fine. The zoysia just didn't look ready on [holes] 10 and 12, so we overseeded with perennial ryegrass.

"We also paid close attention to the

Continued on next page





TOCA gives scholarships

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association has awarded three scholarships totaling \$2,500 to college students at iots recent meeting here.

Winning \$1,000 scholarships were Sally Moore of Michigan State University and Nicole McCarren of Ohio State University. Christopher Hart-wiger of North Carolina State University was give the newly established \$500 TOCA Essay Scholarship.

Lab tests off on pH

Continued from page 13

protocols are being followed by everyone — so testing is uniform.

addition to characteristics, the USGA also kept track of how long labs took to process samples, and how much they charged. Though he noted that some labs are quite large and handle all sorts of business, while others are smaller and deal only with golf courses, the charge for identical testing procedures varied from \$200 to \$650.

"So, once we get back all the results and go back to the labs with them," said Snow, "maybe we can stimulate a little competition."

Tour of Duty

Continued from previous page

Alonzi

natural grass area. The gallery wore a path through the grass and it looked awful. So we moved the ropes this year. We also sodded an area where members had worn a path coming off the

"Any traffic areas we can't help, we'll dye. And we'll lay down fresh wood chips in the flower beds a week before the tournament."

Stoddard

bunkers. We capped them with an inch or two of new sand, cleaned up the edges and gave them proper lips."

MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS: Despite his inexperience playing to the cameras, Stoddards insisted he and his crew made no extraordinary preparations.

"Nothing special," he said. "We've just tried to pay attention to detail: trim work, grooming. Little things like that."

No special striping? "No special striping."

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Great expectations for Kansas' new research funding method

Continued from page 13

of raising large sums of money."

"It's an easy way for all golfers to participate in making the game better by doing their part to support research," he

There are a number of avenues to raise these moneys, he said, adding: "We've talked about soliciting donations club-byclub; or the Arizona method [assessing golfers 10 cents per round for research]; simple voluntary donations at clubs; or tacking on a fee at tournament activities."

Early indications of Kansas' success

The last of three mailings alerting clubs and superintendents of the fund-raising program went out with the GIN Handicap billing in early May. "I believe by mid-June we will have a feel for the participation,"

"If we can develop a high percentage of response, perhaps the KGA the following year, would be willing to make it [\$2] mandatory... The whole idea behind this is that the cost gets passed on to the golferthe guy who gets the benefit from the

"If you tell them exactly where the money is going, I believe a lot of people would support it."

The major obstacles to the Kansas process, Stuntz found, were:

- · There is no access to individual GIN users. ("And that's the same in every state").
- · And, when the bill goes out, "who's going to be aware of it and who's going to make the decision? Maybe the wrong person is getting the mailing. We have no way of knowing. So the superintendents" support



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CIRCLE #118

Turf breeders taking bentgrasses to new heights of excellence

Continued from page 1

in quite some time," said Steve Tubbs, vice president of Turf Merchants in Tangent, Ore.

The heat-tolerant bents — "notably Cato and Crenshaw out of Texas A&M, are doing quite well," Tubbs said, "and it's been the rebirth of bentgrass market."

In the meantime, the developer of Penncross — Penn State's Dr. Joe Duich, who has worked longer than anyone on creeping bentgrasses — is touting several

new creeping bents ready for release in the fall of 1995 that are finer, darker, denser than any before them.

"It is absolutely going to antiquate some of the older bentgrasses," said Tubbs.

"These look too good to be true. They are so superior to anything out there now...," said Bill L. Rose, president of Tee-2-Green Corp., which controls Penncross and its sisters. "There's nothing ever perfect. We're looking for the

Improvements are 'absolutely going to antiquate some of the older bentgrasses.'

- Steve Tubbs Turf Merchants

monster to jump out and bite us. But so far they look spectacular. Three-year-old greens with no disease despite no use of fungicides in the climate of North Carolina is pretty impressive. We are putting out new tests in different climates to see if there are any problems we're not aware of."

Rose also pointed to density as another major factor in the new varieties.

"They are twice as dense as the commercial varieties we have now," he said. "We think that's a real benefit in providing a nearperfect putting surface. We think the density will keep poa annua from encroaching on the greens.

"With fumigated new greens, done properly, we don't think poa will get established. We haven't proven that but it is a theory that seems very real to us."

"The Holy Grail," Tubbs said, "is that creeping bentgrass that will live year-round in Florida."

Turfgrass breeders are taking that challenge, too, by the horns, sometimes mixing cultivars to their advantage.

For instance, Seed Research of Oregon combined Providence and SR 1020 to get Dominant. And Engelke said Cato and Crenshaw will be marketed this summer as CNC by both Lofts, which has the license on Crenshaw, and Pickseed West, which has the license on Cato.

In the Dominant mix, SR 1020 is more heat-tolerant and more susceptible to dollar spot.

The CNC mix is "a complement of strengths," Engelke said. "Crenshaw is susceptible to dollar spot and Cato is resistant to it... Crenshaw is aggressive growing and has excellent traffic tolerance and recuperative abilities. Cato helps keep it from being too aggressive and reduces its thatching tendency."

But how hot can it get?

"One of the most successful Cato plantings is outside Houston," Engelke said. "Bentwater Country Club has had nine holes planted with Cato since 1991 and just planted another nine."

Key to the bentgrass breeders' success against heat is developing a stronger root system — one that will persist under higher soil temperatures and retain the ability to cool itself.

"With the old standard bearers, in the heat of summertime the root system would decline drastically," Engelke said. "Then the superintendent would have to use alternative management practices, such as syringing and fungicide applications.

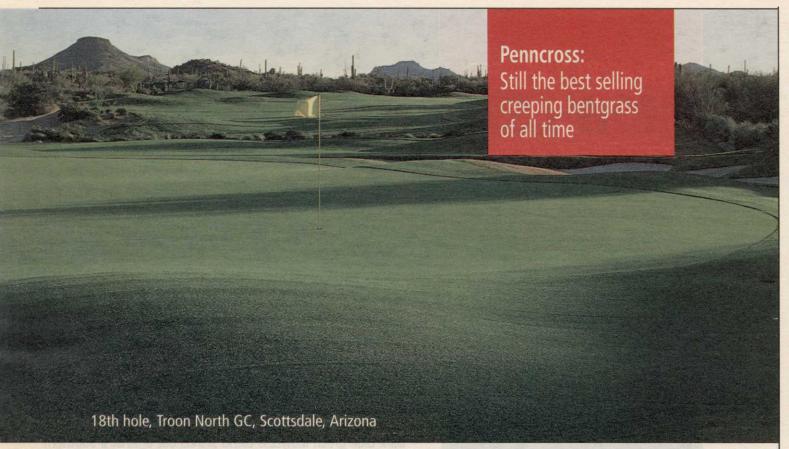
"With a good strong root system, the plant is able to better handle heat. Because it is cooling itself, you put less moisture in the soil canopy and naturally have less problems with disease."

Another major improvement with improved disease tolerance, he said, is that diseases take longer to develop.

"Therefore, the superintendent can be more proactive rather than having to be reactive. He doesn't have to drop everything and get out the fire hose or fungicide tank. He can plan his schedule and go into a curative rather than preventive program," Engelke said. "There lies one of the critical aims we have in reducing the cost of maintaining bentgrass — environmental costs as well as financial obligations back to the club, laborwise, fungicide and everything."

Within the next year, Texas A&M also hopes to release a new bentgrass with increased salinity tolerance. A derivative of Seaside, it is being tested as Syn 1-88.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



Penncross' Heat Tolerance Is Legendary. Equally Important, It Endures Winter Storms, Snow And Drying Winds.

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CIRCLE #121

Bent on improvement

Prestige the siren call for bentgrass breeders, seed firms

By MARK LESLIE

Glamour. That's what bentgrasses spell in the world of golf.

The market size is minuscule compared to other species of turfgrass. Yet, more and more companies are vying for that tiny piece. Why?

• "I don't know. I think they have to learn their lesson," said Bill L. Rose, president of Tee-2-Green Corp., who has had nearly a corner on the market for 30 years with Penncross and its sister cultivars. "Two hundred pounds of seed can supply a whole golf course. The new construction isn't a big market. But everybody can't wait to get in it."

• "It doesn't make sense," said Dr. Milt Engelke of Texas AM. "I wouldn't put bentgrass high on my list if I were starting a business, because of the cost of creating such a variety and the limited market. I'd spend my time on something you can get volume out of."

• "Glamour, absolutely," said Steve Tubbs, vice president of Turf Merchants. "All of a sudden, it's a churning pot, and everybody wants to get into the act. It's the smallest, most elite market of cool-season turfgrasses. There's a little tiny piece of the pie and everybody's going after it, with probably more products than have existed until now."

There appears to be an industry feeling that producing a bentgrass legitimizes a seed company. But it is a dangerous market to enter.

Superintendents' jobs are on the line with bentgrasses more than any other turf, said Kevin Morris, director of the National Turfgrass Federation and its National



Suddenly, the market is overflowing with bentgrass cultivars. Here, experimental bents are compared with some existing varieties.

Oregon State University reports there are 3,975 acres of certified creeping bentgrass being grown in 1994. By comparison, 78,000 certified acres of perennial ryegrass are being grown. Averaging 500 pounds of seed per acre, the entire crop of bentgrass will be 2 million pounds. Perennial rye, averaging 1,500 pounds, will be upwards of 140 million to 150 million pounds.

Turfgrass Evaluation Program, run under the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Md.

Therefore, "they have been reluctant to try something new on a large scale. It's been difficult for seed companies to break into that market because Penncross is so established."

"If a superintendent has good greens, he keeps his job. If he doesn't, he loses it," Rose said simply.

Testing is long and tedious — but necessary — in this world of bentgrass.

"It is such a sophisticated market, you can't just blow into it and make a lot of promises that you can't back up," said Tubbs. "These grasses have to be tested and tried for years before some

golf course guy puts his whole course at risk."

But Tubbs warned that this striving for glamour may lead to disaster.

"Seed Research of Oregon, Lofts, Pickseed West, International Seeds, Jacklin, TMI... they're all coming out with their own bentgrasses," he said. "Suddenly it's pandemonium. It will be just like we've done to the tall fescue or perennial rye market. There will be too many players, selling underprice. So it will remove the last remaining, profitable market in the cool-season turf business."

Will anyone win?

"It depends on the person who can make their product the most profitable for a distributor to sell," he said.

Colonial types show positive results in lower input uses



By MARK LESLIE

BELTSVILLE, Md. — The latest national bentgrass trials taught turfgrass breeders a lot about colonial bentgrasses, including some things that may lead to its increased use for certain areas, according to Kevin Morris, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Turfgrass Evaluation Program here.

Since colonial bents are a bunch-type grass, they are most often passed over for the creeping-type bents which provide better putting surfaces. But colonials have their own favorable attributes, Morris said.

"They have good dollar spot resistance and good winter color. And they tend to require, in general, less maintenance than creeping, less water and less fertilizer," he said

On the down side, colonials tend to be more susceptible to brown patch and don't respond as well to lower height of cut, Morris said.

"We're looking at alternatives: low-input fairway grasses," said Skip Lynch, marketing director of Seed Research of Oregon. "There are big bonuses with colonial bents.

"In the Pacific Northwest, the fashion now is to combine perennial ryegrasses with colonial bents for fairways and tees," Lynch said.

"They make a wonderful surface. It's probably a more fair playing surface for the higher-handicap players than creeping bentgrasses. A high-handicapper can't 'pinch' a ball like a low-handicapper. The result is a fairer lie for that high-handicapper.

Researchers reap seed harvest in China

By PETER BLAIS

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA — The roads may be a mess and agricultural technology behind the times. But the PRC has one of the best phone systems in the world.

Why?

"China didn't have to go through the learning curve we did in the United States," said Dr. Milton Engelke, one of four U.S. researchers who spent three weeks last summer collecting various turfgrasses in south and central China. "There are no telephone poles or underground cable lines. The phone system is relatively new and calls are made via microwave."

Likewise, the Chinese golf industry will benefit from its late entry into the game and the efforts of researchers like Engelke. The Texas A&M University professor expects last summer's turf search to result in new strains of grass that will show up in China within the next five to seven years.

Some of the 15 species of turfgrasses collected in China were the equivalent of the best found in the United States.

Charles TaliaferroOkla. State University

"China won't have to use the old, common turfgrasses U.S. courses have worked with for years. New Chinese courses will have state-of-the-art grasses from day one," Engelke said.

Engelke, U.S. Golf Association Green Section Research Director Michael Kenna and Oklahoma State University professors Charles Taliaferro and Ronald Tryl visited the city of Beijing and four provinces—Guangdong, Yunnan, Sichuan and Jiangsu. They collected 107 germplasm samples during their three-week tour.

Of the 15 species collected,

most were Bermudagrass. Some were the equivalent of the best turfgrasses found in the United States, according to Taliaferro. That came as no surprise to Kenna, who noted that China and the United States have similar landmasses and locations relative to the equator.

The researchers found the warm-season turf everywhere, even at altitudes over 6,000 feet in portions of northwest Yunnan Province and as far north as 45 degrees latitude.

"Grasses from those areas could prove very useful for breeding in cold hardiness," Taliaferro said.

Zoysia was prevalent along the coast, but rarely inland. That surprised the team, since zoysia is common in inland Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines, Kenna said.

"We were disappointed in the amounts of zoysia and Stenotaphrum species found," the

Continued on page 24

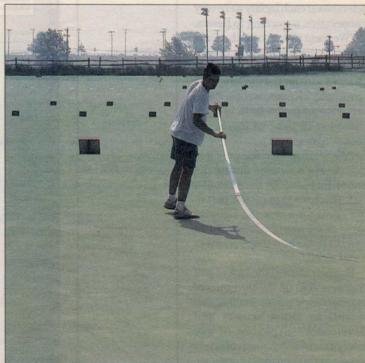


Photo courtesy of Larry Kassell, Tee-2-Green Corp

TRIAL BY FIRE

A researcher sprays water onto the bentgrass trial plots at Pennsylvania State University. The test fields around the country are maintained at high-intensity levels similar to those found on golf courses. These tests will make it easier for emerging golf countries to choose the best cultivars. As Dr. Milt Engelke said: "New Chinese courses will have state-of-the-art grasses from day one." (See story at left.)

China has 'wealth' of material thought useful to the West

Continued from page 23

USGA representative wrote in his report to the U.S Department of Agriculture, the agency that sponsored the trip.

"Most of the Zoysia material found had been imported into the PRC [Peoples Republic of China] from adjacent South China Sea countries, although some of the collections were likely indigenous types."

Added Engelke: "We collected some zoysiagrasses we'd never seen before. Zoysias will play an increasingly important part on U.S. courses."

The team also collected specimens of bentgrass, centipedegrass and even buffalograss apparently imported from the United States several years earlier.

Collecting germplasm was one of two purposes of the trip. The other was to develop cooperative relationships with Chinese plant scientists that would foster further interaction in turfgrass research programs in both countries.

"Everybody gains by sharing our [U.S.] talents [turfgrass expertise] and their resources to develop new varieties. The Chinese end up with state-of-the-art grasses without the development costs and we end up with better turf for U.S. courses," Engelke said.

The Americans spoke to scientists at the South China Agricultural University in Guangzhou; Xiaoshiao Grass Research Centerin Xindian County, Yunnan Province; Kunming Institute of Botany; Nanjing Agricultural University; Jiangsu Jurong Agricultural School; Green Sea Turfgrass Construction Co. in Nanjing; and the PRC National Germplasm Facility.

Their Chinese hosts and the scientists at each facility were very cooperative, according to Kenna.

"We spent more time with animal scientists than with plant scientists because animal husbandry is charged with producing forage for livestock," Kenna wrote. "The turfgrass programs seem to be an extension of some of the forage research programs.

"We were able to see only one golf course operation during the entire three weeks because of a lack of knowledge on the part of our hosts on where the facilities were or an unwillingness to call and get to see how the course was maintained."

Engelke blamed the lack of golf course access on the government bureaucracy's perception that golf is still an elitist activity and developers' suspicions of any government-sponsored officials wandering around their operations. The one they did see had been under construction five years, slowed by government regulations and lack of infrastructre. Some earthmoving had been completed for the driving range while the course opening is likely years away, Kena said.

There are only about 20 golf courses in China, although dozens more are on the drawing board. It is often seen as the next boom area for Asia-Pacific golf development

"As the Chinese golf industry develops, they will need the cooperation of the Western turfgrass industry," Taliaferro said. "They have a wealth of genetic material that Western scientists would love to examine.

"Fostering cooperation between scientists and industry We collected some zoysiagrasses we'd never seen before. Zoysias will play an increasingly important part on U.S. courses.'

- Dr. Milt Engelke

in the two countries couldn't help but aid the Chinese. They are importing golf course grasses now and paying little attention to what they have right there."

Engelke hopes to return in 1995 to the north coast between Shanghai and Beijing "where we know there are zoysiagrasses with the characteristics and texture we're looking for."

"It was a successful trip,"
Taliaferro said," because it
provided a basis for future
germplasm collections and
established substantive
relationships between scientists
in the two countries."

Creeping bent #1 in Oregon

SALEM, Ore.—Creeping bentgrass is the highest value farm commodity produced in Oregon, according to the state's Department of Agriculture and Marketing Division. Average grass seed from the Willamette Valley has a value of \$1,500 per ton, whereas creeping bent can be valued as high as \$30,000 per ton in places like Japan.

Word is spreading almost as fast as our bentgrasses.



From out of the past, Velvet bentgrass about to re-emerge in golf

By MARK LESLIE

The bentgrass "that television got" is making a comeback.

Thanks to Seed Research of Oregon, the seeded-type Velvet bentgrass, first developed by Dr. Richard Skogley at the University of Rhode Island, will reappear with an improved, darker green color and more stress tolerance than its predecessor, Kingston.

Called SR7200 this new Velvet will only be available for small sales or samples this year, said Research Director Dr. Leah Brilman. "We

will start in areas where people know how to manage it and have been waiting for it - then add more locations and expand the market.'

Superintendents, especially in the Northeast, are anxious for the reappearance of the grass that was not dark enough for the eye of

Seed Research Mar-keting Director Skip Lynch feels Velvet fell out of favor with the advent of television, which showed greens committee members everywhere

the dark-green bents at such courses as Augusta National.

"But, the best stands of Velvet are the best putting surfaces in the world. They're smooth. They're fast," Lynch said. "They tend not to be as dark green [as other bentgrasses]."

Along with its darker color, SR7200 also possesses a major attribute of Velvets: low fertility requirements.

Velvet uses one-quarter to oneeighth the amount of fertilizer as other bents, Lynch said. Indeed,

it can burn out at higher nitrogen levels.

"Adaptability will be the issue." said. "Many of the superintendents in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine know how to grow Velvet. But in northern Michigan, Ontario, Minnesota, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho - places where they could grow it - many superintendents don't know how. And that's going to be the fear."

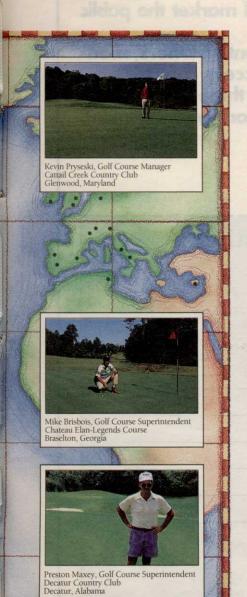
Seed Research will have to put an educational process in place "to make it happen," he said.

SR7200 is not entered in the national test plots because it takes such different management than creeping types.

"If they are managing the tests for creepers, very often Velvetwon't look so good," Brilman said. "Velvet takes much less fertility than creepers. High fertility makes it thatch up, get disease easy and, essentially, will kill it."

Good news travels fast. Especially when it comes from internationally recognized professionals.

That's why demanding superintendents worldwide are using and endorsing the creeping bentgrasses *Providence (SR 1019), SR 1020, or Dominant™ (a blend of the two).



Of course, that doesn't come as any surprise to us. Because we've spent the past several years developing and testing our cultivars on golf courses and at universities with incredible

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What's equally important is our bentgrasses' performance under varied golf course conditions. From America to Australia to Africa, our cultivars consistently produce beautiful, finetextured greens with true putting quality and reduced maintenance. And outstanding fairway turf with less thatch and excellent wear tolerance. These features are important to superintendents, golfers, architects, and greens committees alike.

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*Providence and SR 1020 are protected under the U.S. Plant Variety Protection Act.



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Paint may help some

Golf course superintendents all want their courses in top playing condition with uniformly green color the entire year. Specialty turf paints have become increasingly popular for superintendents who require instant green color on their turf.

Turf paints are not new. But recent improvements in quality, durability and economics have made their use more consistent and reliable. Normally, one application of turf paint made just as the grass begins to go dormant will provide color through the entire winter.

Green Lawnger from the Becker-Underwood company and LESCO Green, by the LESCO company, are used on numerous courses.

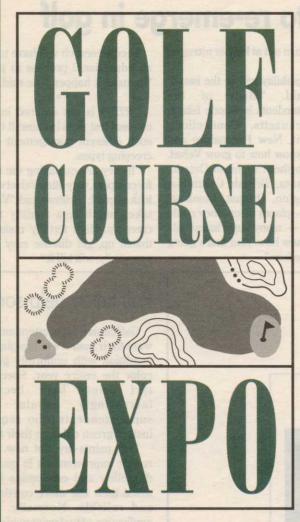
The cost is normally less than ryegrass overseeding. Ryegrass will require watering, sunlight, and additional nutrients to germinate and grow. Also, ryegrass occasionally grows into a more uneven surface.

Agronomically, turfpaints are not harmful to the turf, as they are specially developed colored latex coatings. Certain additives to common greenhouse paint make it an undesirable substitute. A quality turf paint should be made specifically to allow water and air to pass freely through the color coating and not affect the turf vigor. A superior turf paint should also bond onto the grass itself and not wear or rub off onto clothing or skin.

Once a turf paint is selected, proper application of the material is the key. First, the applicator should cut the turf to the desired height so the product is applied to a uniform surface. A hand-spray gun or handboom sprayer should be used so the application is evenly applied. For best results, make two applications: the second perpendicular angle to the first, to eliminate possible streaking. Avoid accidental application to fences, brick, or concrete, as the color is permanent once dried.

Typically, rates of 1 part turf paint to 15 parts water are used on partially dormant or slightly offcolored turf. Condition of the turf will determine actual use rates.

A quality turf paint should also be versatile enough for divot mix applications.



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ARCHITECTS GO ON-LINE

WASHINGTON,

DesigNetwork, the online information system of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), now gives members the ability to interface with Internet. Linking architects, contractors, designers, engineers, planners and the environmental industry, the service now has 1,000 regular users interfacing on issues ranging from design to specification, new projects and employment. Moreinformation is available from John Stump or Regina Travers at 202-686-2752.

LOHMANN DESIGN OPENS

MOSINEE, Wis. - Nine new holes and three reconstructed holes on the old nine have given a brand-new look to Indianhead Golf and Recreation, which opened here June 4. Lohmann Golf Designs, Inc. and Midwest Golf Development, Inc. provided design/ build services for the project. Three new holes were routed on the existing nine and all new greens and tees were constructed. The new nine makes it an 18-hole par 72 track. A new automatic irrigation system and pump station were added. Mature forest, rolling topography, and wetland pockets provide scenic views and excellent playability.

TRENT JONES IN IRELAND

COUNTY LIMERICK, Ireland - An agreement has been reached between The Robert Trent Jones Cos. and New York financier Tom Kane, and construction has resumed on an 18hole championship course here. Nine holes of the course were built before the project was abandoned in 1990, when the ownership group of the Adarc Manor Hotel, led by Kane, could not sustain funding for the project. The course is expected to be ready for play late this

TEXAS HALL OF FAME OPEN

THE WOODLANDS, Texas - The new Texas Golf Hall of Fame, which opened April 26 at The Woodlands, honors the people who build and maintain golf courses as well as the



players. An eightpanel exhibit, titled "Where We Play," tells the history of course design itself, as well as that of the four courses at The Woodlands. The course designers are all

represented — Joe Lee, Arnold Palmer, Robert von Hagge and Carlton Gipson. The Hall is open, free of charge, every day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oak Grove Island a golden egg for Golden Isles?

BRUNSWICK, Ga. - As shelved lagoons and natural brush habitat have kept environmentalists satisfied, owners hope reasonable prices will keep Golden Isles area golfers happy at the new championship daily-fee Oak Grove Island Club.

'We wanted to give the Golden Isles a plush, resort-type golf course offering yearround affordability, and I feel we've done exactly that," said Mike Evans, president of Oak Grove Island Plantation, Inc., which owns the course. "This is a championshipquality course where a round of golf, including cart, costs \$25 to \$30. It's something that did not exist in this area before and it's something the people here can be very proud of."

Design-wise, during design and construction architect Mike Young received input from the Audubon Society on protecting and managing native wildlife. He incorporated such things as natural brush habitats for birds, bluebird houses and shelves in all lagoons.

The shelved lagoons ensure that native vegetation will continue to flourish by eliminating the steep banks common to many golf course ponds. The shallow shelves, approximately six inches deep, extend out from the edge of the pond about six or eight feet. The habitat is ideal for the reeds and cattails found in the area.

The club was developed in conjunction



Oak Grove Island Golf Club's bunkering shows the handiwork of designer Mike Young.

with a residential community offering more than 500 building sites with waterfront, marsh or golf course views. Accessible by boat or causeway, it also features a full-service deep water marina.

All this offered opportunity as well as challenge to Young, of Watkinsville. He designed and built the 18-hole layout taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by the 200-acre primeval site.

Situated on a 700-acre interior marsh island fronted by the Buffalo and Turtle rivers and offering direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway, the course is not only surrounded by winding waterways,

Continued on page 32

Knott: Onus for change is on architects

Don Knott, chief designer for Robert Trent Jones II in Palo Alto, Calif., is responsible for nearly 20 top-rated courses in the United States, Japan and Australia. He owns a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and master's degree in architecture from the University of California-Berkeley. Managing Editor Mark Leslie spoke with Knott when he took the gavel as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Golf Course News: What are your biggest challenges during your presidency?

Don Knott: I don't think they will be significantly different than what the golf world has been facing over the last several years. Ongoing environmental issues which will be so critical. You've got what seems to be a fairly negative perception of the game, particularly by non-golfers. That is directly related in some ways to the environment. Although we're not directly involved, the golf world is facing continuous legal challenges involving liability and equipment.

But what I'd like to push from a golf architural point of view is a broadening of the scope of what I call an "acceptable" golf course. Over time, since the game started, the definition of what is acceptable in the eyes of the public and the golfer has continued to narrow. We started with an obstacle course over natural, raw terrain. We continue to become a bowling alley a very narrowly defined concept of what is an acceptable course.

GCN: Is there a way for you to turn the

DK: I think it's mainly public relations. It's guys like Pete Dye, for example, standing up and saying, "We've got to go



Don Knott enjoys playing the game as well as designing the courses.

back and put some old courses out in the field somewhere, and just hit the ball around." Condition is a factor. Always seeing [on television] perfectly conditioned golf courses has been an issue for years. Augusta National is in perfect condition, and it has become the standard. There are things you can do, but it's going to be a hard issue to sell to the general

GCN: Would the ASGCA membership want to take a stance on the issue?

DK: I think a lot of them would love to. There are so many courses pushing in the opposite direction. You've got the whole real-estate economics of the golf course ...

Continued on next page

ASGCA's outgoing president: Banks seeing light of golf's success

Competition among financial institutions, fueled by generally improved operating results, is opening the door to more funding opportunities for golf development projects, according to Jerry Matthews, who stepped down

in April as president of the American Society of Golf Course Archi-tects (ASGCA)

"The financial com-munity definitely looking more favor-ably on golf course projects



Jerry Matthews

than it did two years ago when everything was labeled 'real estate,' and therefore to be avoided," Matthews said. "We have the opportunity to build a stronger industry and further improve our image with the financial community," he said.

For that to happen, Matthews said the golf industry must:

· Prove that golf course projects are sound investments when properly designed, built and managed.

 Help golf property developers and related industry professionals to accurately calculate the cost and profit potential of a project.

Matthews said more private investors and contractors are taking a direct equity position in golf course projects. From a risk-adjusted rate of return, golf course developments are often better investments than commercial or industrial real-estate projects, he said.

Continued on page 32

Q&A: Knott

Continued from previous page

which means you want to minimize space and maximize fairways, which physically narrows down the course.

GCN: Can you think of a good golf course that is on the outer fringes of that acceptability?

DK: Any of the links courses in Scotland that have stood the test of time are great examples of what golf used to be. Most of those links courses would be totally unacceptable if you attempted one here. They have too many blind shots. They have things the pros consider unfair, which is also a part of the narrowing. Our golf press in the U.S. seems to be highly driven by professional golfers, who are score-oriented. So you eliminate all those incredibly interesting factors of the links courses - blind shots, semi-blind shots...

GCN: Have you been able to do any links courses?

DK: We've done similar characteristics. At our new course, The Orchards, in Detroit. And at Spanish Bay [in Monterey Peninsula, California]. But Spanish Bay isn't on as big a piece of ground as you'd like to have for that sort of thing. And you take heavy criticism. Pete Dye got heavily criticized when he was doing blind bunkers and blind greens and all sorts of things that, in my opinion, make the game fascinating and exciting. You take a lot of abuse, so it would be hard for the average architect to fight that body of public opinion as to what is an acceptable course.

GCN: A lot of the architects say you shouldn't have any blind shots...

DK: That's true. But I happen to disagree. I think architects themselves are falling into line on what people are telling them is an acceptable course - mainly, what the pros and ranking systems are saying. Golf Digest ranks the top 100 or the best new courses, and it essentially tells you what a good golf course is: You've got to be able to define the fairways. You've got to be able to see the bunkers. You've got to see the green surfaces. Everyone says, "If that's how I get a course that's acceptable, that's what I'll design."

GCN: So everybody is designing a Rembrandt and there are no Picasso's left. No variant behavior is allowed.

DK: Yes, that's what I'm concerned about: that we continue to design more and more of a generic-type golf course.

GCN: Architects have shown you can handle the challenge of wetlands, and the challenge of using effluent in a lot of places. But what are the big issues around the corner?

DK: One of the biggest issues is that society is becoming more urbanized. We've got no affordable land left for golf. So the availability of golf is a huge issue. Where do you put a golf course in the San Francisco metropolitan area that's not on \$100,000-an-acre land? It either has to be public land that some city or municipality has had for 100 years and will make available

- and that doesn't seem to be happening in the last 10 or 15 years or you have to go 100 miles away like the Japanese do.

GCN: How do you overcome that problem?

DK: Again, this is a radical concept for Americans to handle, but if you could get people to accept the idea that you don't have to play 18 holes, it would help. I mean, if you could say: "What's wrong with a seven, 11-or 15-hole golf course?" Why not play 11 holes? We can get 11 holes on this site. For hundreds of years that's what they did. The game didn't start at 18 holes. Even

the early American courses had six, seven holes. They added on. Very few started out with 18.

That's part of the narrowing definition. Why does it have to be 18 holes? I mean, it's a game.

GCN: What specific initiatives will you implement during your presidency?

DK: I will get the society to produce a white paper on pesticides and herbicides by [Dr.] Mike Hurdzan: what we know and don't know about them on golf courses, whether they're getting into ground water and running off the surface, what golf course architects do to

reduce or mitigate those issues, information that would be valuable to potential developers, owners, operators, the golf world in general - something we can produce and hand out. And I will have Bill Love work on another one on wetlands and wetland issues: what we know about them, what the government is doing, what we see as good or bad about them, the current federal regulations from a golf point of view. And I want Bob Cupp to do one on financing and feasibility. Even though it's not golf architecture per se, it's related certainly to development of new courses.

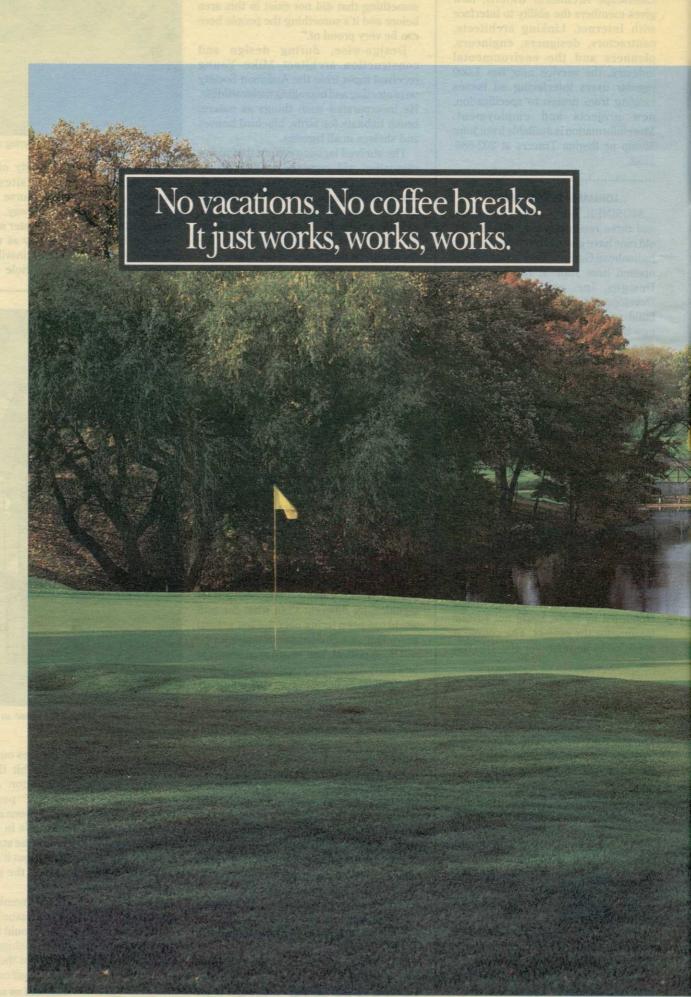
GCN: Who would these be handed out to?

DK: I think we will develop these papers for our own use, then eventually turn them into something like Mike Hurdzan's article a few years ago [Evolution of the Modern Green] - a pamphlet available to anybody.

GCN: Have you set a deadline for these papers?

DK: Not yet, but I will have the draft done well before our next meetings, then have a final version certainly by next year.

GCN: Roger Rulewich was the Continued on next page



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Seven-course menu

Continued from page 1

project will include three courses and housing. The starting date for construction there is still uncertain, although plans are to have one course ready for play by fall 1995

Both facilities have most of their permits, Johns said. Chesapeake and The Legends Group have signed contracts on the first course in New Kent and the first two at Stonehouse, according to Legends Group Vice President Danny Young. Former Tom Fazio design associate Mike Strantz, who has worked extensively with The Legends Group, will design the first three layouts.

Chesapeake is the largest landowner in Virginia, Delaware and Maryland, controlling 385,000 acres in Virginia alone. New Kent and Stonehouse, however, will be the company's first golf course developments.

The company's landholdings in inland Virginia, coupled with studies indicating the need for more public golf courses in greater Williamsburg, prompted Chesapeake to seek an experienced golf development partner.

Chesapeake executives were familiar with the success of the Legends Group. The family-owned company operates six courses in the Myrtle Beach area - Marsh Harbor, Oyster Bay, The Heritage and the Heathland, Moorsland and Parkland courses at The Legends complex.

"We arranged a meeting when we knew they'd be up this way," Johns said. "They have an excellent management team. It's fun to work with an enthusiastic group that eats, sleeps and breathes this stuff."

Young, whose father Larry started the business by leasing a Myrtle Beach golf operation in 1975, said: "Our [The Legends Group] goal is to have six courses in the greater Richmond/Williamsburg area within the next five years.

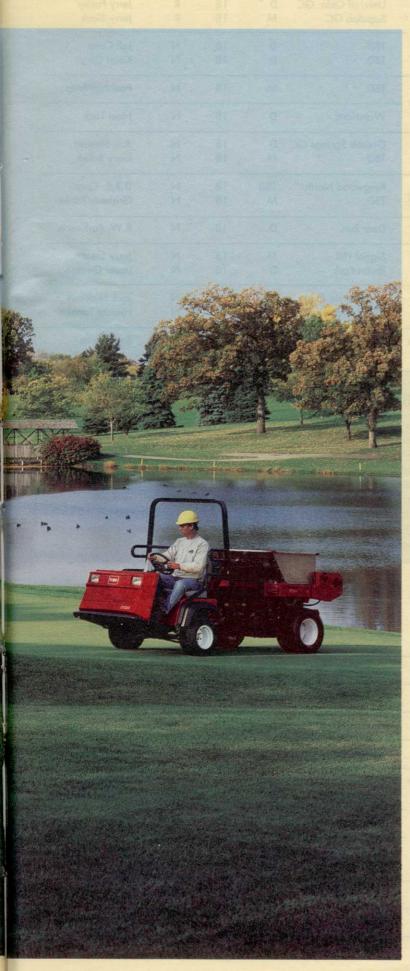
"It's a very exciting market. The quality of the hotel and tourist base is very high. And there is a strong demand for public golf."

Young expects greens fees to be competitive with the nearby public courses. The New Kent project, 12 miles from

Rich-mond, will be built on timber land harvested three years ago, Young said. The small vegetation growing in "is just the type of landscape we were looking for. It will be mainly golf with some real estate. The homes will have great vistas across the course."

James City County planners have scheduled a July review of the Stonehouse project, located 12 miles from Williamsburg. Plans are to start construction in August or September.

"Stonehouse is much different than New Kent," The Legends Group executive said. "It's hilly with huge trees and large rhododendrons. We've routed one par-3 with a precipitous drop over an 80-foot ravine.





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CIRCLE #124

Q&A: Knott

Continued from previous page

only other ASGCA president who was not a principal of his own firm. Does that have any personal or collective meaning to you?

DK: Personally, I am highly honored. I think it's a wonderful position. Traditionally, heads of firms are the president. In fact, we wouldn't have become bosses had our bosses not been previous presidents. It's wonderful to be recognized by my peers when the general public doesn't have a clue who I am from Adam.

The reason I've always worked in a larger firm is because I love to design. If I ran my own firm, I know from talking to everybody, I'd be spending 60 percent of my time selling jobs, collecting money, writing contracts, dealing with personnel management, running an organization. And 30 or 40 percent of my time designing. I now spend 90 percent of my time designing, which is what I love to do.

GCN: Would you do anything differently?

DK: No. I think anybody in this profession would like to someday, when they retire, take on a single job on a great site, and do a Pete Dye-Kiawah Island type project, where you live on the site, get into it every day, and try to create the best possible course.

GCN: How would you like to be transported, family and all, to Ireland and told: Here's a piece of land; build us a great golf course?

DK: I think it would be great. But with the practicality of big business in this modern day and age, you'd have to be independently wealthy to do one course and then sit around waiting for the next great site and next great client. You have to take them when they come. But you'd probably still come back in five years and say: "Gee, I wish I'd done it differently." There isn't a course you do that you don't go back to and say: "Oh, gosh, we could have done better there. I don't like that bunker. It's got to change."

People have this perception that if Donald Ross or Alister Mackenzie did it 100 years ago, it's perfect. Well, I know from my own experience - and I can't imagine they were any different - I'll bet they walked every course they ever did on opening day and saw things they'd like to change. You never go out there and are perfectly satisfied.

Courses recently planned throughout the United States

Location	Course Name	Туре	Holes	Work	Contact
Arkansas —	a homes will have a	er ad	harrier y	her Larr	Voimer vehicles fall
Bentonville	TBD	M	9	N	Doug Glaysher
California —	lamos City County	l shr	The Legal	l mO*-bi	as 2001 ni noites
Madera	TBD	TBD	18	N	James McKelvey
Ojai Mina	TBD	P	18	N	Pete Dye
San Jose	TBD	M	9	N	Les White
Windsor	TBD	D	18	N	Mary Soiland
Yucaipa	Chapman Heights	TBD	18	N	Bill Semans
Connecticut	F GENERAL SELECTION OF THE SEC		S III SIO UN	- 2	manufacture school and
Guilford	TBD	M	18	N	George Kral
Westbrook	TBD	D	18	N	Dave Roysten
Florida ———	oraceurous we sero	HILL - CS	empo oddi	rd. An iron	Date Royslett
Palm Bay	TBD	M	18	N	Dale Sugerman
Punta Gorda	Punta Gorda CC	P	18	N	Dennis Palmer
Georgia —	rollia Colda CC		10	1	Dennis Fullier
Carrollton	TBD	М	18	N	Jim Collins
Jekyll Island	Great Dunes	D	18	N/R	Doug Traub
Leesburg	TBD	D	18	N	John Gay
Illinois ———	TDD	0	10	N.I.	CL D L
Atlanta	TBD	D	18	N	Glen Brooks
Galena	Eagle Ridge	D	18	N	Joe Duelman
Mount Zion	TBD	M	18	N	Steve Warren
Vernon Hills	TBD	M	18	N	Dick Nugent
Wheaton	Arrowhead GC	M	18	R	Ken Killian
Indiana	IDEAL CHOILE CO.				
Carmel	Plum Creek	D	18	N	Pete Dye
Fort Wayne	TBD	TBD	18	N	R. Delagrange
Kentucky —	our bornes me				
Henderson	Wolf Hills	D	18	N	Jim Adler
Louisiana —	mind benjamoon			and whod	MA
Bossier City	Old Cross Bayou	TBD	18	N	Jack Nicklaus
Maine	The state of the s			Honen	eli edoi sione
York	The Ledges	TBD	18	N	Brad Booth
Maryland	9-5		0000	The same is	19-11-11-11-11-11
Gambrills	TBD	D	18	N	David Smith
Princess Anne	TBD	M	18	N	First Golf
Massachusetts	OF SEEDING COOK	100			Track Second to S
Adams	Greylock Glen	D	18	N	Stephen Brown
Amesbury	Woodsom Farm	M	TBD	N	Joseph Fahey
AND REPORT OF THE PERSON AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON ADDRESS OF THE PERSON AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON	TBD	M	18	N	Michael Hurdza
Bridgewater New Bodford					Jim Trant
New Bedford	TBD	D	18	N	
Waltham	TBD	D	4	IN	Jack Snedeker
Michigan ——	D: 11 00		10	NI	11 0
Chelsea	Pierce Lake GC	M	18	N	Harry Bowers
Lansing	TBD	D	18	N	John Kazenko
New Buffalo	Whittaker Woods	D	18	N	Peter O'Brien
Minnesota —	A STATE OF THE STA				The state of the s
Brainerd	The Preserve	D	18	N	Mike Morley
Minnetonka	TBD	M	18	N	Dale Stranik
Paynesville	Koronis Hills GC	D	9	A	Joel Goldstrand
Mississippi	e leaves a no doi			Stom be	s. top dresses, ar
Hattiesburg	Canebrake	D	18	N	Gordon Lewis
Missouri	and had broken	March 1			apillat.
Nixa	TBD	M	18	N	Jan Blase

Under "Type" - D-Daily fee; P-Private; M-Municipal: "Work" - N-New; R-Renovation; A-Addition

Location	Course Name	Туре	Holes	Work	Contact
St. Charles	TBD	D	TBD	N	N/A
Montana	reinis, coupled with s	IV THE	e play by	ready for	Trees one course
Havre	TBD	D	18	N	Ted Morris
Nevada	hatemany youdancilli	W Shirt	Hod Holl	to learning	Doth facilities hav
Mesquite	Si Redd's Oasis	D	18	N	Arnold Palmer
New York ——	Checapealco caccus	3810	अती तल र	dos úneo	traingly synthesis
East Fishkill	Hickman Hills GC	D	18	N	N/AN/A
Niskayuna	TBD	M	9	N	Edwin Reilly
North Carolina —	ur ses in the Mar de D	0.7 mm	7070702	Office A	THE RESTRICTION
Landis	TBD	D	18	N	William Barnes
Lenoir	TBD	M	18	N	Jack Messer
Ohio —	mages at 1 he Lawrent	(P) arter	Street street	ta took od	t animals floor manage
Adams County	Cedar Lake	D	18	N	Brian Emler
Highland Heights	Aberdeen	D	18	N	Michael Hurdzan
Lebanon	TBD	M	18	N	Craig Schreiner
Oklahoma ——			On the		
Norman	Univ. of Okla. GC	D	18	R	Jerry Farley
Sapulpa	Sapulpa GC	M	18	R	Jerry Slack
Pennsylvania —					
Butler	TBD	D	18	N	Jeff Cuny
Loganville	TBD	D	18	N	Kauri Corp.
Rhode Island —					
Tiverton	TBD	M	18	N	Paul Northrup
South Carolina —					
Rock Hill	Waterford	D	18	N	Noel Tuck
Tennessee					
Fairview	Greene Springs GC	D	18	N	Asa Stewart
Oak Ridge	TBD	M	18	N	Gary Baird
Texas —					
Houston	Kingwood North	TBD	18	N.	D.R.E. Corp.
Tyler	TBD	M	18	N	Graham/Panks
Utah					
Midway	Deer Run	D	18	N	R.W. Parkinson
Virginia —					
Manassas Park	Signal Hill	M	18	N	Jerry Slack
Richmond	Bryan Park	D	18	N	Lester George
Washington —					
Snoqualmie	Snoqualmie Ridge	D	18	N	Jack Nicklaus
Tacoma	CC of Washington	D	18	N	Hiroshi Tanaka
Wisconsin —		36 -		MERGE	
Chippewa Falls	Elks Club GC	D	9	Α	Jack Howe

Developers of Black Butte set to unveil Awbrey Glen

BEND, Ore. — Awbrey Glen, a private golf course designed by Gene "Bunny" Mason, is expected to open in mid- to late-July.

Part of a residential community developed by Brooks Resources, developers of Black Butte Ranch, Awbrey Glen incorporates 330 homesites and Mason's 18-hole track into 400 acres of

pine and juniper forests. The 7,007-yard golf course traverses rugged outcroppings of lava and basalt and offers panoramic views.

"This course was already here," Mason said. "We just put in the tees and greens and planted the grass."

The practice and instructional area includes five par-3 holes.

New golf course projects recently approved throughout the United States

Location	Course Name	Туре	Holes	Work	Contact
Arizona	have to be ind				
Carefree	Legend Trail	N/A	18	N	Rees Jones
Kingman	Cerbat Hills GC	M	18	R	First Golf
Arkansas -				while	cal mily to make
Hot Springs	Diamante	P	18	N	Ault, Clark & Assoc.
California				- 000 000	The Control of the Co
Downey	Rio Hondo GC	D	18	R	Gerald Pirkl
Roseville	Sun City	D	18	N	Greg Nash
Colorado -	La Roievenilla				12 2 TT - 00002 member 3
Westminster	Legacy Ridge	M	18	N	Art Hills
Florida -					September 2 days
North Fort Myers	Del Vara	P	9	N	Ron Garl
Georgia -	main of log #11		100000	general limits	meto los uniterestes la actual l
Atlanta	Hamilton Mill	P	18	N	Gene Bates
Conyers	N/A	D	18	N	Arnold Palmer
Jonesboro	Lake Dow North	D	18	N	Denis Griffiths
Kentucky -	carded a silla Wear				
Covington	Devou Park GC	M	9	R	Gene Bates
Michigan -	gran release training	TREE			
Cadillac	Caberfae Peaks	D	36	N	Harry Bowers
Romeo	The Pastures	D	9	N	Harry Bowers
Minnesota —	is at salid life of a			A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	
Biwabik	Giants Ridge	D	18	N	Jeff Brauer

Location	Course Name	Туре	Holes	Work	Contact
Missouri —	The space of the same				Part and the second
Springfield	Millwood	D	18	N	Greg Martin
Nevada					
Mesquite	SouthShore	P	18	N	Jack Nicklaus
New York —					
Lloyd	Apple Greens GC	D	18	N	David Roehrs
Ohio —		1000			
Granville	Links at Echo Springs	D	18	N	Barry Serafin
Oklahoma —					
Enid	Golden Oaks GC	D	9	N	Jerry Nurdin
Enid	Meadowlake GC	D	18	R	Charles Howard
Pennsylvania –					
New Tripoli	Olde Homestead GC	D	18	N	Jim Blaukovitch
South Dakota -		- 1			
Soux Falls	Prairie Green GC	M	18	N	Lowen Schuett
Vermillion	TBD	M	18	N	Pat Wyss
Tennessee —					
Mount Juliet	Pine Creek	D	18	N	Monty Mires
Texas ———					
San Antonio	SilverHorn	D	18	N	R. Heckenkemper
Washington —					
Spokane	Deer Park G&CC	D	18	N	Ted Morris

ASGCA, GCSAA, PGA reps spell out recommendations for handicapped access

By PETER BLAIS

What do ski areas and golf courses have in common?

Hopefully, a lot in the eyes of the federal government if the American Society of Golf Course Architects has its way.

"We'd like to see courses equated with ski areas," said architect Richard Phelps. "Ski areas provide access to the lift and the top of the mountain. It's up to the disabled skier to figure a way to get himself back down. We contend that golf courses should make the tee and green handicapped accessible. But it should be up to disabled golfers to get themselves over the rest of the course."

The fear in the golf industry is that new federal guidelines due out next year to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act could require all or most of a course to be handicapped accessible. Given the nature of the game, the American Society of Golf Course Architects and other industry associations feel it is an unreasonable burden.

Phelps is the ASGCA's representative working with the golf subcommittee to the federal government's Recreation Access Advisory Committee. The committee consists of representatives from numerous recreational businesses whose job is to make recommendations that will help the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board develop handicapped accessibility guidelines.

Phelps said most in the disabled community understand golf's dilemma and aren't seeking an allor-nothing solution. But the disabled and the federal government are demanding improved access.

Design and maintenance changes will have to be made at both new and existing courses, the Colorado designer said. But they can be done without sacrificing a quality design, he added.

Denis Griffith-designed Fox Hollowat Lakewood near Denveris aperfect example of a quality design that is 95-percent handicappedaccessible, Pelps said.

"The important thing for course owners today is to go out on their course and take inventory of potential problem areas," Phelps said. "If they will make corrections and make certain the pro shop and maintenance crews are trained to be courteous and helpful, they will take a giant step in diffusing an otherwise explosive issue.

"People must realize that 99 percent of the disabled community just want to be treated properly and given the opportunity to enjoy the great game of golf."

Phelps, Henry Thrower of the Professional Golfers Association, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's George Renault are on the recreation committee's golf subcommittee. Their recommendations for new construction include: • A golf course would not be required to have an accessible route for play of the game through the green. Golf car paths should not be considered an accessible route, using the ADAAG definition.

• Practice areas shall be accessible from golf car paths or parking areas.

• Where practice tees, bunkers, putting and chipping greens are provided, at least one of each will be accessible

• Each teaching practice area shall have a minimum of one

accessible practice tee.

• A practice sand bunker (if provided) shall be accessible — 52 inches wide, no steeper than 5 percent grade, cross slope no greater than 2 percent, maximum 2-inch lip height.

• Most course amenities must be accessible from the golf car path or golf car parking area.

• Toilet rooms on the course must be accessible from golf car paths, where provided.

• Weather shelters (where provided) shall have a minimum

clearance of 5 feet by 8 feet to allow room for a golf car.

• No technical provisions are recommended for golf car paths.

 At least one tee on each hole, and as many as possible, shall be accessible.

• There shall not be grade or cross-slope regulations governing fairways or roughs through the greens.

• There should be at least one accessible route to all putting greens, except where extreme safety and terrain issues are

involved.

• There should be no design issues for putting surfaces.

 Course hazards (bunkers and water) are not required to be

• There should not be special design issues for course bunkers.

• New stand-alone practice facilities shall be accessible.

• Where continuous accesson the fairway is not possible because of natural barriers, access to the fairways shall be provided at

Continued on next page

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*Wait 3 weeks for bluegrass, zoysiagrass, bentgrass fairways and tees.

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GOLF COURSE NEWS



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CIRCLE #126

Accessibility issues face designers

Continued from previous page

maximum distances of every 75 yards from one or more holes, one tee on that hole shall golf car paths if terrain permits.

courses include:

- · Existing practice areas at courses or stand-alone practice areas, if altered, shall be made accessible.
- If practice bunkers or greens are provided at practice areas, they would not have to be altered just because the practice tee area is
- Repair of existing golf car paths would not constitute alterations.

- If an existing teeing ground is altered on be made accessible.
- Alteration of a teeing ground means Special recommendations for altered changing the physical dimensions - length, width or elevation.
 - Resodding, reseeding, changing grass types or adding sprinklers on tees are not considered alterations.
 - Altering the tee or green on one hole does not require altering tees or greens on all other holes.
 - There should not be any alteration design issues for rebuilding putting surfaces on existing greens.

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CIRCLE #127

Banks seeing the light

Continued from page 27

Bond financing also will continue to be an important source of new capital for public courses, according to Matthews. This will happen for two reasons. First, cities and counties have access to land that private developers cannot afford to buy. Second, yield requirements from the projects are typically lower for a public body than a private investor because the venture is not profit-driven.

Another source of new capital is the "mezzanine" or "second-tier" corporate lenders, said Matthews. Large corporations, such as Textron and GATX, established financial units that provide many of the same services as banks, but are not bound by the same regulations. These financial arms can function as debt lenders or equity partners, or both.

These corporate lenders are also creating new programs that actually participate with banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions to fund mortgages for golf courses.

Lower returns from traditional sources have encouraged pension fund managers to re-think their investment philosophies, Matthews said.

Currently, most long-term investments are not providing fund managers with acceptable returns. Thus, he said, some state pension funds are considering other investments.

Large golf projects, such as the Robert Trent Jones Trail in Alabama, may become attractive to more fund managers in the future.

Oak Grove Island

Continued from page 27

but laced with creeks, marshes

Ten acres of the golf course site were officially designated as wetland areas.

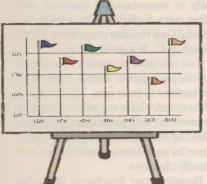
Every hole offers marsh and lagoon views, and on many holes the water comes directly into play.

The fact that the site offered more above-sea-level area to work with than most locations of its kind gave Young the leeway necessary to create a course that is flowing rather than flat.

Most holes have four sets of tees and at its longest, the par-72 course will play 7,050 yards.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

BRIEFS



DOWNIE TO HEAD SALES AT MID-PINES

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C. — Helen Downie has been named resort manager of the Mid-Pines Golf Club here. Downie has been director of sales and marketing at the resort since 1988. Mid-Pines was acquired by the Pine Needles Resort and a trio of North Carolina business executives. The inn and golf course will be operated by Pine Needles. Mid-Pines opened in 1921, and features a Donald Ross-designed golf course to complement 118 guest rooms.

GRAYHAWK TABS CURRY

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Catherine Curry has been named special projects manager of Grayhawk Golf Club, a new 36-hole golf project scheduled to open in

September. Curry will act as construction liaison and be responsible for supervising all preopening activities. Before joining Grayhawk, Curry was marketing director for the David Leadbetter Golf



Catherine Curry

Academy. David Graham and Gary Panks designed the Talon 18, scheduled to open in December. The Tom Fazio-designed Raptor course is still in the design stage.

PERDUE TO HEAD CMAA EDUCATION

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Joe Perdue has been named director of education and professional development for the Club Managers Association of America. Perdue has been a faculty member in the Cecil B. Day School of Hospitality Administration at Georgia State University since 1986. He has also served as director of CMAA's Business Management Institute programs since that time.

..... HAYNIE NAMED TIMARRON DIRECTOR

SOUTHLAKE, Texas - Ladies Professional Golf Association Hall of Famer Sandra Haynie has been named director of golf at Timarron Country Club. Haynie won 42 tour events, including the 1974 U.S. Women's Open. The 18hole Byron Nelson design, located in a Mobil Land community in Southlake and Colleyville, is scheduled to open in

SIGNATURE, ISS TEAM UP

ORLANDO, Fla. - Signature Golf International recently selected ISS Golf Services to handle course maintenance at Harbor Hills Country Club in nearby Lady Lake. The April 18 acquisition of Harbor Hills was the first purchase for Signature, a newly formed management company. ISS has maintenance-only contracts on 225 golf holes around the country.

Ocean Course sale delayed by environmental concerns

By PETER BLAIS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Just how much wetlands restoration work will have to be done and just who will pay for it is holding up the final sale of The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island to the New York Audubon

The South Carolina Coastal Council, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Resolution Trust Corp., Virginia Investment Trust (VIT) and New York Audubon are trying to determine the extent of unpermitted damage done to wetlands during construction and whether the placement of certain bridges violates environmental permits, according to New York Audubon Executive Director and Counsel John Santacrose.

Santacrose said he had expected the

York Audubon and investor VIT the property owners — to have originally been completed by this spring. Now he doubts the issue will be resolved before late summer or early fall.

"It's such a unique transaction that it's been fairly difficult,"

Technically, the Resolution Trust Corp. still controls the environmentally sensitive course built by the now-defunct Landmark Land Co.

"It's the RTC's problems to correct." explained VIT Vice Chairman Beverly Armstrong. "We have no involvement in that whatsoever.



"It hasn't affected our financial commitment to the purchase at all. It's just taking longer to get it done than we'd expected."

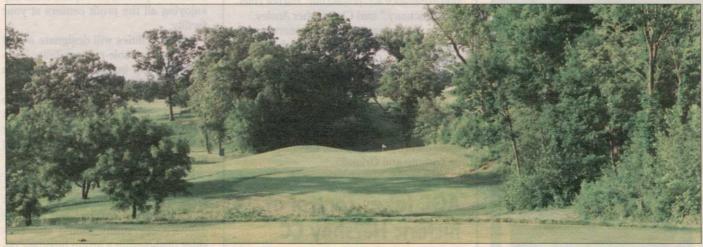
New York Audubon was the winning bidder for the RTC property at last summer's bankruptcy auction of Landmark holdings.

Under the purchase agreement, VIT subsidiary AMF Inc.

was to eventually take over management and financial ownership of the property in exchange for certain conservation easements that would allow New York Audubon to stipulate how further development would

But the Coastal Council and U.S. Army

Continued on page 35



The 7th hole at Settler's Hill Golf Course in Geneva, Ill., one of 16 facilities managed by GreenVisions.

GreenVisions becoming major player in Midwest management

By PETER BLAIS

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — The steady growth in golf course development in the Midwest has helped a Northbrook firm become one of the leading management companies in the region, if not the United

GreenVisions currently operates 10 golf facilities in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. In early May the Northbrook firm took over the management contract at New Berlin (Wis.) Hills Municipal Golf Course. It plans to spend \$500,000 on capital improvements there over the next

five years. It is building Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Ind., and remodeling Emerald Hills Golf Club in Sterling Hills, Ill. Plans are to add two to four courses annually.

"We'd like to be in the 15 to 25 range within five years," President and Chief Operating Officer Tim Miles said. "We don't have an ownership interest in a course, yet. But it will happen."

GreenVisions leases and manages golf clubs for a variety of clients, ranging from banks to municipalities to forest preserve districts.

"The Midwest has been strong, particularly for municipal work," Miles said. "The Midwest, especially Illinois, is helped by government agencies like park districts. There are between 300 and 500 in Illinois alone. Each one has taxing and bonding capacity. That's a big help in getting courses built."

GreenVisions offers full management services including marketing, budgeting, accounting and personnel management functions. One of its specialties is turning around ailing operations, such as Highland Park (Ill.) Country Club.

The former private club filed for bankruptcy in the early 1990s, according to Green Visions Chief Financial Officer Allan Swaringen. LaSalle National Bank hired GreenVisions as a consultant in 1991. The company assisted with the foreclosure, ap-

Continued on page 36

Marketing Idea of the Month

Getting word out called key to success

By JOE GLASSER

Getting the word out on the benefits of your facility is the greatest challenge facing course operators.

Whether you are starting a new facility or want to improve business at an existing one, your solicitation plan should start with establishing a relationship with the media.

Invite editors and reporters to see what you are developing during construction. Get to know Joe Glasser them on a first-name basis. In-

vite them to lunch. Keep them posted on the development's progress.

Feature articles during development can create interest in your target markets and give you a head start promoting what you plan to offer the golfing public.



Prepare a master list of media representatives from local, regional and national publications and broadcast outlets. Plan a

media day celebration including complimentary golf before the official opening to introduce your

While I was with Marriott, we held a media day at Marriott's Grand Hotel at Point Clear (Ala.) to introduce a nine-hole addition. It is a fairly isolated facility and needed an aggressive marketing approach. The event resulted in

numerous stories at the local, regional and even national level.

The media can also be helpful at an existing facility. Whether you have remodeling plans, management changes, or sim-

Continued on page 34

Textron donation pushes CMAA closer to goal

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Textron Group has made a pledge of \$100,000 to The Club Foundation's Campaign for Excellence, a Club Managers Association of America fund-raiser.

The Textron Group consists of Jacobsen, Textron Financial Corporation, Textron Specialty Materials and E-Z-Go.

The Campaign for Excellence was launched in 1992. In April, 1993, the Club Foundation announced the successful completion of the first phase of the Campaign for Excellence, with \$1 million, or one-third of the total

Continued on page 36

Signature International enters golf market

ORLANDO, Fla. — Real estate developers and golf industry executives formed Signature International LP, which is being backed by the Yale University Endowment Fund, to acquire and develop real estate.

The new company acquired Harbor Hills, a 2500-acre master-planned community, north of Orlando, Fla.

Signature International LP is a limited partnership with Yale University, Dev.-Con (a Toronto, Canada-based development company) and three managing principals. The three managing principals are President and Chief Executive Officer F. Christopher Ansley, who is also CEO of Dev-Con. which during the last 15 years completed almost \$1 billion of real estate

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development; Peter C. Ansley, a Canadian businessman; and Adam Solomon, formerly managing director at E.M. Warburg, Pincus and Co. The principals are also SI partners.

The partners already own several resort and residential properties, including Starr Pass, a master-planned community in Tucson, Ariz., St. James Place, a time-share resort in Beaver Creek, Colo. and Hans Lollick Island in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Harbor Hills is being developed as a master-planned community and destination resort. It includes an 18-hole golf course designed by Lloyd Clifton, an upscale country club with formal restaurant and grill, a complete tennis facility and a fitness center.

"The indigenous wildlife is a most distinctive aspect of the property. We are already working with the World Wildlife organization to enhance and protect our "Harbor Hills bird sanctuary," said Christopher Ansley.

Don Vance was appointed general manager of Harbor Hills Country Club. Vance has 24 years of experience in the golf industry and was most recently director of management services at Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company. Vance also serves as a director of operations for the Signature Golf International subsidiary.

Signature International, L.P. has offices in Toronto and Orlando.

AGC takes control at historic Hershey CC

American Golf Country Clubs (AGCC), a division of American Golf Corp. (AGC), has taken over management of The Hershey Country Club. National Golf Properties recently purchased the property and turned management over to AGCC. AGCC operates 32 private country clubs in the United States and United Kingdom.

Hershey CC includes the award-winning East and West courses as well as Hershey Parkview Golf Course. The West Course is hosted its 20th Ladies Professional Golf Association Keystone Open in mid-May. It also hosted the 1940 PGA Championship.

Glasser on media

Continued from page 3

ply want to announce upcoming activities, let the media know. Invite them out for complimentary golf. Meet them in person and introduce them to your staff. Actively pursue their support.

Group business should be vigorously pursued since it has the greatest potential for dollars spent per golfer. Groups of hotel conventioneers, corporate managers, employee association members, civic organizations, charitable institutions and other organizations can be a boon to your operation.

You can promote meeting facilities, catering functions, golf clinics and award ceremonies to complement a day of golf. Ideally, you can hold a group function where the participants spend a full day enjoying all the profit centers at your facility.

Many facilities will designate a staff person whose sole responsibility is soliciting group business. At Marriott's Camelback Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., we made an assistant pro the group meeting coordinator and isolated him from the rest of the business, leaving him to concentrate on coordinating group functions and tournaments.

He met with hotel managers and solicited golf business from their operations. We even provided bus transportation. Not only resorts, but regular daily-fee operations should also consider designating a group business coordinator.

At Camelback, we rotated the position every year among the assistant pros. Many of them went on to very successful careers. Chuck Eade is now director of golf at Springhouse Golf Club at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. Tony Austin is golf director at Marriott's Orlando World Center and was recently named the PGA's National Merchandiser of the Year. Claye Atcheson is national director of golf operations and business development for Marriott Golf.

Consider forming alliances, particularly in more-isolated markets, with other area facilities. The highly successful Golf Holiday program at Myrtle Beach, S.C., is a good example.

You can pool resources to advertise special packages or simply promote opportunities in your area. Many regions of the country have statewide or citywide promotions with participating facilities allowing discounted golf and other privileges for members of associations, or to benefit charities.

Develop your brochures and other promotional materials — such as scorecards, yardage guides, golf school programs — as early as possible in the construction process. During construction, your representatives should be knocking on doors, meeting corporate officers, hotel managers and tourist bureaus. Speak at civic group meetings to communicate what you are developing and how you can cater to the golfing public.

Repeat business depends on the experience you provide. If it exceeds the golfer's expectations, you have taken a giant step toward developing a regular customer. You must duplicate this experience at every future visit.

To encourage repeat business, develop a customer mailing list. Use it to target direct mail or newsletters to announce special promotions and upcoming events. Send out special invitations for functions, tournaments and announcements.

The success of any daily-fee golf facility depends on aggressive marketing. Getting the word out to potential customers means using the media, implementing a group solicitation strategy and cultivating repeat business.

Joe Glasser is president of ACE Consultants, a development and management consultant business in Colorado Springs, Colo. Glasser previously spent 14 years as a golf professional and executive with Marriott Hotels and Resorts.



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Continued from page 1

promised to work closely with the GCSAA and others.

Jim and brother Charles refer to themselves as Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside, respectively, when it comes to the Scott family business

Jim runs the golf shop operations and keeps the books. Charles manages the courses. Charles is a University of Massachusetts turf school graduate, certified golf course superintendent, former Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. employee and designer of three of the family's five layouts.

The fifth, Stone Hedge North, is under construction and due to open next summer. The other four are Stone Hedge Golf Course, Gull Lake View East & West, and Bedford Valley GC in Battle Creek.

The Midwest, particularly Michigan, has been one of the strongest growth areas for public golf in recent years. But a shortage of entry-level facilities still exists, the new owners' association president said.

"All the ones around here are at or over capacity," Scott said. "We need to give new golfers a chance

Ocean Course

Continued from page 33

Corps of Engineers intervened last fall. The agencies claimed permit violations occurred during construction and are demanding restoration work be done to the affected areas. The bankruptcy court has held up the closing on the property until the matters are resolved.

Part of the problem is that Hurricane Hugo struck during the middle of construction. Work resumed shortly after the storm passed. But no accurate pre- and post-hurricane maps exist, making it difficult to determine what permit violations might have occurred, Santacrose said.

"The Coastal Commission and RTC are trying to decide what the violations are," he added. "We want to be in on those discussions so that we know what we are getting into and whether it is technically possible to make and maintain the corrections."

AMF continues to operate the facility under a management contract with the RTC.

"I think the purchase will still go through," Santacrose said in mid-May. "It will be a couple more months before everything is resolved and then there is a 60-day wait once the bankruptcy court okays the plan. That means it will be late summer or early fall before the closing is finalized."

Armstrong, whose company plans a \$15 million renovation of the Charleston resort and its other three courses once the deal is finalized, added: "We'd certainly like to see the matter resolved so we can make the improvements we'd planned."

to get into the game. Beginners are held back because it is so intimidating to learn the game on an upscale, daily-fee course that's built for the guy who can break 90. Unfortunately, those are the courses being built rather than entry-level facilities."

Scott complimented the work of Immediate Past President Vince Alfonso of The Rail in Springfield, Ill., and Executive Director Michael Hughes.

"Vince has been a wonderful spokesman for the game," Scott said. "He's very interested with the teaching of golf and represented us very well.

"Mike has done a terrific job. He's organized our association and focused on what we needed to do, namely move us into a positive position as part of the Allied Association."

Other officers elected during the meeting were Cliff Rampy, Treeline Golf Club, Tomball, Texas, vice president; Chuck Bennell, Tam O'Shanter Golf Course, Canton,

Ohio, secretary; and Jerry Hollingsworth, Singing Hills Golf Club, El Cajon, Calif., treasurer.

Making up the rest of the board of directors are Darrell Boyd, Mt. Frontenac, Frontenac, Minn.; Dan Clark, Willow Creek Golf Course, Des Moines, Iowa; Larry Giustina, Tokatee Golf Club, Eugene, Ore.; Jim Hinkley, ClubCorp, Dallas; Mark Krause, Muskego Lakes Country Club, Muskego, Wis.

Walt Lankau Jr., Country Club of Stow, Stow, Mass.; Gibson Lunt, Lake Shore Country Club, Rochester, N.Y.; Carol Nill, Butler's Golf Course, McKeesport, Pa.; Mark Seabrook, Canadian Golf & Country Club, Ashton, Ontario, Canada; John Shields, Glenn Dale (Md.) Country Club.

Rich Stahlhuth, Hale Irwin Golf Services, Inc., St. Louis; Ted Stavovy, Willowbrook Golf Course, Belle Vernon, Pa.; Bill Stine, USA Golf, Kissimmee, Fla.; Mike Tinkey, Sports Management and Marketing Services, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; Peter Trenchard, Bay Ridge Golf Course, Sister Bay, Wis.

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5: 14 each of the white 100-yard, 150-yard and 200-yard markers; 4 each of the white 250-yards markers and 46 ground anchors. ◆ For more information, contact your nearby Standard Golf distributor and ask about our complete Yardage Marker System. Once you're seeing double on your course, you'll know why two markers are better than one!

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MANAGEMENT

GreenVisions

Continued from page 33

peared as an expert witness during the bankruptcy proceedings and assumed management in June 1992.

GreenVisions assisted in the sale of the course from LaSalle to the city for \$10 million. The city retained Green Visions to manage the facility. Between 1992 and 1994, membership grew from 190 to 350. The course is expected to show a profit this year for the first time in five years.

"We'll take on assignments that many others won't," Swaringen said. "We've even done short-term deals, working with year-to-year contracts until an operation is turned around. We make the client's problems our problems."

Miles heads the management team. He has 20 years experience in golf management, specializing in project development and administration, operational programming, financial forecasting and policy management. He is also a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) and PGA professional.

Rounding out the management staff is Swaringen, who has 10 years experience in the real-estate development industry; Vice President of Operations Warren Litavsky, with 25 years financial and personnel experience at a Fortune

Textron pledge

Continued from page 33

goal, pledged by CMAA members and chapters. The second phase of the Campaign, or the corporate phase, was then launched by George Gasser, CEO of The Gasser Chair Company, with a corporate pledge of \$50,000.

"I'm delighted to report that, as a result of these major pledges, and now with the most significant support of The Textron Group, The Campaign for Excellence is proceeding on schedule and we have nearly reached the pivotal \$2,000,000 mark," reported Club Foundation President James B. Singerling. The organization's goal is to secure pledges totaling \$3 million to create a permanent endowment to fund educational and research opportunities for the club management industry.

Created in 1988, the Foundation is a separate entity and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, publiclysupported organization formed for educational and research purposes. Through the Campaign for Excellence, the Foundation will:

- Provide funds to create and expand continuing education and professional development pro-
- · Establish courses of study in colleges and universities specifically geared to the club industry;
- · Provide grants for underwriting research on topics of mutual interest to clubs, hotels, restaurants and sectors of both the golf and hospitality industries; and
- Award scholarships and educational grants to practicing professionals seeking to enhance their abilities and to students pursuing careers in the club industry.

500 company; and Vice President of Construction Tom Jauch, CGCS, with 20 years experience supervising course construction.

"Tom's been with us 10 years," Miles said. "He's the one who interfaces with the on-site superintendents and developed our maintenance tapes and manuals."

Another executive worth noting is Chief Executive Officer Ram Thukkaram. Thukkaram earned an engineering degree in India and a master's degree in business administration in the United States. He purchased a small diecasting business in the mid-1970s, which has evolved into Ganton Industries, with 800 employees and annual sales of \$100 million. In 1992, President Bush honored him as one of eight outstanding Asian Americans.

While not involved with the dayto-day operations, Miles said, "Ram is an entrepreneur who provides us with tremendous insight and direction."

It was Thukkaram's idea that GreenVisions institute Kaizen, a program of continuous improvement that utilizes employees' suggestions. Toyota developed the program in Japan. The car maker undertook 95 percent of the 1.9 million suggestions employees made in 1989. Kaizen is recognized as one of the keys to Toyota's success.

With 22 courses in the construction/planning stage in the Chicagoland area, supply is quickly catching up with demand, Swaringen said. Consequently, course operators are being more aggressive in attracting golfers.

"Even park districts are running ads and selling discount coupon books," he noted. "I've never seen that before.'

Green Visions has also weighed in, offering a \$25 discount card potentially worth \$375 in savings at five GreenVisions courses.

DESERT MOUNTAIN APPOINTED MOTT VICE PRESIDENT

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Desert Mountain Properties has named Robert S. Mott as vice president of club operations. Mott will oversee all the operations of The Desert Mountain Club.

Mott, a 25-year club industry veteran, joins Desert Mountain from the PGA National Resort in West Palm Beach, Fla., where he was director of operations.



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BRIEFS



SPERBER HEADS EII CONSTRUCTION

CALABASAS, Calif. - Richard A. Sperber has been named president and chief operating officer of the Construction Division of Environmental Industries, Inc (EII). In addition, Sperber now holds the title of president of Valley Crest Landscape, Inc., a construction subsidiary of Environmental Industries. Sperber will be responsible for the activities of branch operations in California, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas.

NEW FARM MANAGER AT SOUTHERN

OMEGA, Ga. - Southern Turf Nurseries, a part of the Warren's Group, recently promoted Mike Fulghum to

the position of Farm Manager at their sod and sprig operation here. Over the past four years, Fulghum has progressed through the ranks at Southern Turf from harvest fore-



Mike Fulghum

man, to assistant manager, to acting farm manager. In his new position, he is in charge of the production, harvest and distribution of sprigs destined for golf courses, sports stadiums, and landscape contractor jobs throughout the South-

SHIREY JOINS BUCKNER AS VP

FRESNO, Calif. — Buckner, Inc. has announced the appointment of Robert D. Shirey as its vice president of engi-

neering. He will head the company's development of brass valves, sprinklers, impact rotors, and central control systems for golf, commercial, municipal, and residential



Robert Shirey

use. Shirey was formerly the director of engineering for the Chromalox Division of Emerson Electric in Ogden, Utah. He brings considerable experience in product design and development, quality control, and technical support to his new position.

WOODS ANNOUNCES NEW 1-800 LINE

OREGON, Ill. — Woods Equipment Co., a producer of tractor-powered attachments, has inaugurated a second 1-800 phone line for its dealers. Effective immediately, the number (1-800-31-WOODS) is available to Woods dealers as a secondary customer service number to be used for detailed product and order inquiries only. Part and whole goods orders continue to be served by Woods' primary customer service fax number: 1-800-399-6637.

Seed Report

PVP legislation pending; VNS issue divisive

By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The national and international negotiations over Plant Variety Protection (PVP) that have sharply divided the American seed industry should be decided later this month, according to sources inside and outside the government.

"We're trying to bring the U.S. law into conformity with the new UPOV [international Union for the Protection of Varieties] treaty," said U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Variety Protection Office Commissioner Ken Evans said.

The U.S. PVP law was first adopted in 1970 and UPOV was first passed by 21 countries in 1978. UPOV was rewritten in 1991. To be a signatory, the United States must come into compliance with that 1991

The purpose of UPOV is to ensure quality control; truth in advertising, by letting consumers know what they're buying; and enforcement, ensuring the seed in a bag is exactly what its label says. Evans explained that at the request of Sen. Bob Kerry, D-Neb., his department last fall drafted new PVP legislation.

"We hope for passage of a new PVP act by the time of our convention - June 20," said Leslie Cahill, vice president of governmental affairs for the American Seed Trade Association here.

With a Senate vote expected to be in hand in May, "my understanding is that by the end of June, it will be introduced into the House as well," said Tom Salt, plant variety protection examiner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Once the U.S. law passes the Senate and House, then the Senate can take the final step of ratifying the UPOV treaty

"To enforce the treaty at least five member countries have to submit legislation to

Continued on page 41



The new Airborne hover mower from Grass Craft.

NEW PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Grass Craft's American-made hover mower looks for a piece of the market

By HAL PHILLIPS

FALMOUTH, Maine — Hover mowers have been around for some time, but American-made hover mowers were non-existent — until

Grass Craft, a 3-year-old firm headquartered here, has introduced the Airborne Mower, a hovering grass cutter marketed exclusively to golf courses throughout the United States. The Airborne is sold directly or through a dealer network with a one-year guarantee, according to Wayne Hughes, president of Grass

"We're going through a variety of dealerships primarily dealing with golf courses," said Hughes. "Some are John Deere dealers. Some are

Toro dealers; some Jacobsen. It's a cross-section of commercial distribu-

"In areas where we don't have distributors, we'll sell direct. We have an 800 number [1-800-883-2887].'

Two English firms — Flymo and Allen — have cornered the market on hover mowers for years. But Hughes is convinced there is market share to

"I spent three months finding out whether there was a market," he said. "It was my impression that Flymo had pulled back to England, and there was demand here. If we made a good hover mower, people would buy it."

We did about 450 units domestically last year. I want to get to 5,000 units a

Continued on page 38

Madrid Golf Show set for November

MADRID — The sixth Madrid International Golf Show 1994, the main golf exhibition in southern Europe, will be held here at the Casa de Campo Exhibition Centre from Nov. 17-20.

This commercial/industry show drew 13,300 people last year, including 1,200 trade visitors, according to show organizer GEASA S.L. Exhibitors can purchase a 12meter by 12-meter booth space for 214,200 Spanish pesetas (or US\$1,565 plus VAT).

The Madrid International Golf Show is run in concert with the fourth annual Golf Technical Workshop, Nov. 17-19.

The superintendents session will be run collaboratively by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the Spanish Greenkeepers Association.

The session for club managers will be run jointly by the Spanish Club Managers Association and the Club Managers Association of America.

For more information, contact Emmanuel Dubos at 341-350-1564. or fax at 341-350-6866.



GOLF COURSE EUROPE, NOV. 29-DEC. 1

PARIS - The sixth annual Golf Course Europe Exhibition and Conference will be held at the Parc Floral here from Nov. 29 through Dec. 1, 1994. For more information on the exhbition and conference, contact Charles Duff at P.O. Box 7720, Berkeley, CA 94707; or call 510-526-6922; or fax 510-526-5387.

Kirby Markers sold to Witco Industries

CARMEL, Calif. - Jack Kirby, inventor and chairman of the board of Kirby Markers, Inc., has announced he has sold his company to Witco Industries, a Delaware Corporation. The terms of the sale were not disclosed.

Witco Industries, Inc. announced it will move the company from here to Carlsbad, Calif., by the end of April. The Kirby Marker System will be manufactured by Plastics Engineering and Development, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary. The company will be located at 6108 Avenida Encinas, Carlsbad, California 92009. The new telephone number will be 1-800-925-4729.

Kirby will remain a consultant to the company, and Sales and Marketing Manager Buster Newton will assume the same position with the new company.

Terra acquires Sure-Grow Solutions, Inc.

SIOUX CITY, Iowa — Terra International, Inc. has acquired Sure-Grow Solutions, Inc. of Taft, Texas. Purchase of the farm service center, formerly owned by Loree and Betty Svadlenak, took effect April 15.

The location provides growers with access to Terra's fertilizer, crop protection products and agricultural services. Under the new ownership, Terra will maintain the tire and spray equipment department.

According Loree Svadlenak, he, Leslie Turner and Pat Gibson will remain with the company, and the Taft location's phone number will not change.

Polyon sales spur Pursell expansion

SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Pursell Industries, Inc. has begun construction of a new plant to increase production of its patented polymercoated fertilizers, which are marketed under the Polyon trademark.

Increased demand for the Polyon technology prompted the construction, according to Jim Pursell, chairman and CEO.

"This new facility is three years ahead of our initial plan," Pursell said. "The sales of Polyon have gained significant market share worldwide and have far exceeded our expectations."

Grass Craft Airborne

Continued from page 37

year. The market — considering landscapers, cemetery and golf courses — has a saturation point of probably 25,000. We should do at least 1,000 this year.

"And I did over 300 units in Asia last year. I have a distributor in California [Agra Pacific in Riverside] that handles all my Asian business."

According to Hughes, the most unique feature of the Airborne Mower—aside from its domestic manufacture—is its aerodynamically designed molded deck, made of virtually unbreakable polyethylene. The hover mower also features a metal-to-metal mounting system and sun-resistant white coloring.

The price tag? \$649.

Grass Craft claims the Airborne to be the lightest hover mower in the industry at 32 pounds. Other features include a safety shut-off system and hand-mounted controls.

The engine, from Tecumseh, features 3.5 hp, two-stoke power and a solid-state ignition system. Tecumseh has 6,000 service centers nationwide, said Hughes.

The blade is steel, specially treated with black oxide and designed to resist rust, flexing and shattering. Optional is the newly developed nylon-based safety blade for buyers who don't want to use steel.

SISIS, Morris make Florida inroads

SISIS, the English manufacturer of turf equipment, is further developing its sales op-

eration in the U.S. by the appointment of Keith Morris as territory manager, based in Ocala, Fla.

Morris had been a SISIS area representative in the southeast of England and brings a



Keith Morris

dealer's and user's knowledge to Florida. His role will primarily be that of direct sales in

Florida, and providing sales and technical support to SISIS' existing dealers. Contact Morris by telephone at 904-694-5503; by mobile phone at 904-620-5651; or by fax at 904-694-6955.

Kelty named senior VP at Scotts

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Dr. Michael P. Kelty has been promoted to senior vice president, technology & operations of The Scotts Company.

Prior to his promotion, Kelty was vice president, technology and operations. In addition to Kelty's previous responsibilities for research, development, engineering, and quality assurance, he will also assume direction of all manufacturing of fertilizers, seed, organics, and soils.

He also has responsibility for the activities of Republic Tool and Manufacturing Co., a Scotts sub-

sidiary.



Dr. Michael Kelty

Kelty has been employed by The Scotts Company since 1979 when he joined the company as regulatory affairs adviser, and later assumed the position of director, advanced technology.



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Inaugural Scotts Tradition of Excellence award to GCSAA

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) was presented the 1994 Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award at the Tradition golf tournament here in early April. Stephen F. Mona, executive director and CEO of GCSAA, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

Scotts established The Tradition of Excellence Award to recognize the outstanding achievements among golf course superintendents in advancing the science of course maintenance and in making golf the best it can be.

"When considering who the recipient of the

first Scotts Tradition of Excellence Award should be, the choice was obvious," said Scotts Company's President and COO Ted Host.

"The GCSAA has sought through its membership to sustain the highest standards for performance, professionalism and innovation in the world of golf course management.

"Through this award, we are recognizing the contributions of all golf course superintendents who have made the golf industry in this country the finest in the world, and we salute them for bringing out the excellence in all of us who serve it," Host concluded.

Last mercury-based pesticide pulled

Continued from page 1

perintendent at Falmouth (Maine) Country Club. "I don't use it and I'll tell you why: For any sort of disease management, I like to use the least toxic product available. This stuff [Calo-Clor] comes with a skull and crossbones on it."

"It does carry the danger label," confirmed Greg Wahl, national accounts manager for Scotts. "Mercury is a carcinogen, and you have to remember that mercury has been eliminated from most everything. Batteries may have a little mercury in them, but that's it."

Calo-Clor and its granular cousin Calo-Gran were the last mercury-based pesticides still registered for use in the United States. They contain the active ingredients mercuric chloride and mercurous chloride. Approximately 21,000 combined pounds of these two pesticides were used annually, according to EPA.

Under terms of the cancellation action, Scott may sell and distribute products labeled for release or shipment on or before June 25 of last year until June 24, 1994. Retailers and other distributors may sell these products until their stocks are exhausted and users may use them until their supplies are depleted.

Dr. Noel Jackson, the renowned University of Rhode Island agronomist, isn't convinced that mercury-based products are harmful when applied on golf

"The amount used on golf courses is extremely limited," Jackson explained. "And most of the mercury is tied up in the soil profile. It doesn't move laterally. It doesn't leech. Whether you think of that as an environmental danger, that's up to you.

"I don't."

Patty Knaggs, head superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., can't argue with the product's effective-

"It's superb," she said. "But I won't stockpile it, though I had the opportunity to do so. I'm just as happy to face the real world."

Regardless of where you stand on the mercury issue, superintendents who used Calo-Clor and Calo-Gran are searching for alternatives. Wahl said Scott is "currently working on a couple of compounds to replace them.'

Ross endorses a combination of Daconil and Chipco 26019, as well as a combination of Daconil and Curalan.

Knaggs said she has also found success using the Daconil-Chipco combination, though it's significantly more expensive than Calo-Clor and about "80 to 90 percent as effective."

On another front, Ross made an interesting discovery this year.

"This past winter I tested Banner, which has looked real good," said Ross. "The spots where I used it are spotless this spring, and this was one helluva year for snow

"Daconil, on the other hand, has been around forever. But no one's every used it for snow mold. It works great."

The problem with systemic fungicides like Banner - not to mention Bayleton, Rubigan and Turemec SP — is overuse. Both Ross and Jackson agreed that excessive spring dollar spot application might build a tolerance to the fungicide, precluding its use when you really need it - in the sum-



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pick up, load and dump aeration cores in the same time it takes three workers with shovels.

All Cushman and Ryan aeration equipment is backed by Ransomes America Corporation Performance Engineered Parts Program.



DowElanco expands Confront label

INDIANAPOLIS—DowElanco has expanded the label on Confront post-emergence herbicide to include warm-season turf, including bahiagrass, Bermudagrass, centipedegrass and tall fescue. Confront, a non-phenoxy herbicide, is designed to control up to 35 species of broadleaf weeds including narrowleaf plaintain, henbit, dandelion, clover and prostrate spurge.

In other DowElanco news, Mark Urbanowski has accepted the position as product communications manager for the firm's Turf and Ornamental and Technical Products Division.

Urbanowski replaces Keith Kohlmann, who was promoted to product marketing manager for several of the company's Turf and Ornamental and Technical prod-

Janice Smith, previously promotions manager with DowElanco, has been promoted to product marketing manager replacing Dave Maurer, who was named district manager for the Specialties Group.

West Star to distribute Watertronics

HARTLAND, Wis. -Watertronics has appointed West Star Distributing, Inc. their distributor for new and retro-fit golf course irrigation pump stations in northern California. Mike Ginelli, West Star's irrigation manager, and his team will be responsible for marketing, sales and services of Watertronics electronically controlled pump stations.

Customers will be serviced from West Star's Hayward and Sacramento locations.

"We already have excellent representation of our residential commercial pump stations by Joe DePlano and Pat Brighella of Horizon sales, our manufacturers representatives," said Robert Emmerich, Watertronics sales and marketing manager. "The addition of West Star for the golf line strengthens the team serving Watertronics' customers in the northern California market."

Jacobsen names quality managers

RACINE, Wis .- Officials at Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. have named Michael D. Mann the company's quality assurance manager. Mann is responsible for the coordination of Jacobsen's total quality management system as it relates to quality assurance.

Mann joined Jacobsen in 1990 as a quality supervisor. Prior to Jacobsen, Mann was Quality Assurance Manager for Walker Forge Inc. in Clintonville, Wis. He is a member of the American Society of Quality Control.

In other Jake news, Rodney C. Baltzley has been named the company's director of quality assurance. Baltzley is responsible for the development and implementation of a total quality assurance system throughout Jacobsen.

Baltzley joins Jacobsen from Noma Outdoor Products where he served as vice president of quality assurance.

Encore earns '94 Blue Chip winner

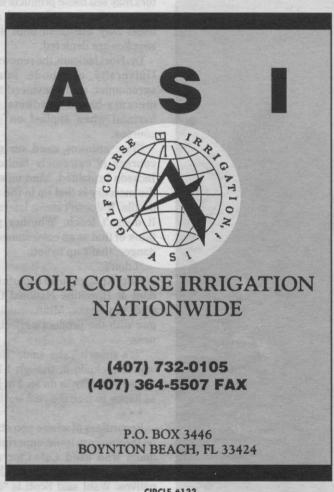
BEATRICE, Neb. - Encore Manufacturing has been designated to receive a 1994 Blue Chip Enterprise Award.

The Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative, now in its fourth year, is part of a national campaign to help bolster America's competitiveness. As a Blue Chip honoree, Encore president Dick Tegtmeier will share his problem-solving experiences and lessons with other small businesses throughout the country. The Initiative is sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Nation's Business magazine and Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Encore will join other Blue Chip Enterprises that have demonstrated creative use of resources and innovation to meet challenges and emerge stronger. Two hundred companies from Puerto Rico to Alaska have been named honorees in the program. Encore Manufacturing was the only outdoor power equipment manufacturer named.

HUNTER HONORS HODAS

Hunter Industries has presented the Edwin J. Hunter Industry Achievement Award to Ernie Hodas, founder of Century Rain Aid, one of the largest distributors of irrigation products in the U.S. The award was announced by Hunter Sales and marketing Director Charles Huston at the company's annual Distributor Meeting, held at the La Costa Resort and Spa near San Diego. The Hunter award recognized Hodas' career accomplishments and his contributions to the irrigation industry. Century Rain Aid was founded by Hodas in 1970 and now has 30 branches in nine state





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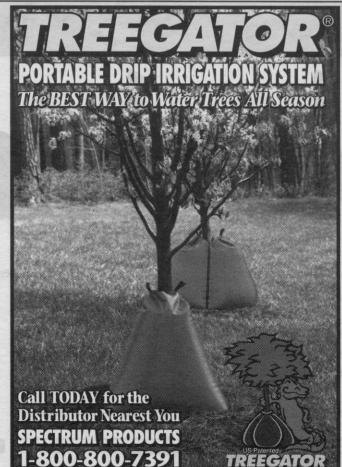


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- Increases enjoyment of the game no walking up and down looking for sprinkler heads, posts or bushes and then "pacing" off.
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PVP legislation

Continued from page 37

conform to it," said Salt. "As of today, nobody has."

The major split in the seed industry is over Variety Not Stated (VNS)

The industry "has spent a good deal of time discussing VNS issues," Cahill said. "We've had serious, frank and candid discussions. The industry is split 50-50."

The new UPOV treaty "clearly states if you have a name and protected variety, you are to use it under all circumstances," she said.

Yet, one of the common methods of marketing turfgrass in surplus years is by VNS. If a company walks away from its contract with a grower, the grower sells the seed as VNS. Or, if a contracted field of proprietary grass gets "contaminated" with another type of grass and the buyer nixes the deal, again that seed goes to the marketplace as VNS.

There are three viewpoints:

- · The seed companies': It's their proprietary seed, yet the company gets no royalty from its
- The seed grower's: He has devoted a growing season to that acreage of turf seed and he needs to earn some money from it.
- · The ultimate buyer: In the case of VNS, he has no idea what he is buying.

"We're split right down the middle. The owners voted and the good guys lost by one percent," said Tee-2-Green President Bill Rose, who supports the PVP legislation.

"People are simply not informed enough to make a logical decision," he said. "Varieties all have names and the names should be used. The consumer deserves to know what he's buying. Volume seed packets say: 'Contains 30 percent ryegrass, 30 percent Kentucky bluegrass and maybe fine fescue.' In this day and age all varieties have names. Some are good for turf and some are not, and the consumer has no way of knowing it.'

In a scenario spelled out by Seed Research of Oregon Marketing Director Skip Lynch, farmers are actually blending named varieties, harvesting them and selling them as VNS.

"They are essentially stealing the research those companies have put into it and selling it off as VNS," Lynch said.

Lynch agreed that in some cases companies have also abused growers by not buying the seeds and thus leaving them no option other than to sell it on the open market as VNS.

"A lot of this problem should be taken up in contract law. Instead they put into this revision of the PVP law," he said.

Another reason for the United States to pass VNS laws, Rose said, is that "Europe and New Zealand consider the U.S. a dumping ground for their off-grade seed. They can sell it as VNS and GOLF COURSE NEWS

it may be a forage variety. It goes into discount or volume lawn mixes."

Most of the bigger seed companies have supported the PVP legislation, according to Lynch. "The growers have to a certain extent been against it. Some companies that operate more borderline as brokers have been against it."

So why worry about signing on to the new UPOV?

"It offers you reciprocal rights," Cahill said. "We'll have the same rights in France as they do here, so no one is at a disadvantage."

The 21 member countries are

the most industrialized and "our basic competitors," she said.

"If the U.S. wants to remain competitive nationally, we want to join," Salt agreed.

When the previous UPOV was passed, the United States actually was not in full compliance, but the other countries "looked the other way," said Leah Brilman, research director of Seed Research of Oregon. "They let it [lack of VNS coverage] go through because the farm groups put up such a fuss. But who knows if they'll let it go this time if we don't meet all the standards?"

Foley-PLP names Roberts new president

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - Ken- Valeo Engine Cooling, Inc. in neth D. Roberts has been Jamestown, N.Y. Roberts held named president of Foley-PLP Company. The announcement

was made by Walter Ringer, chairman of the company's parent. Foley-Belsaw.

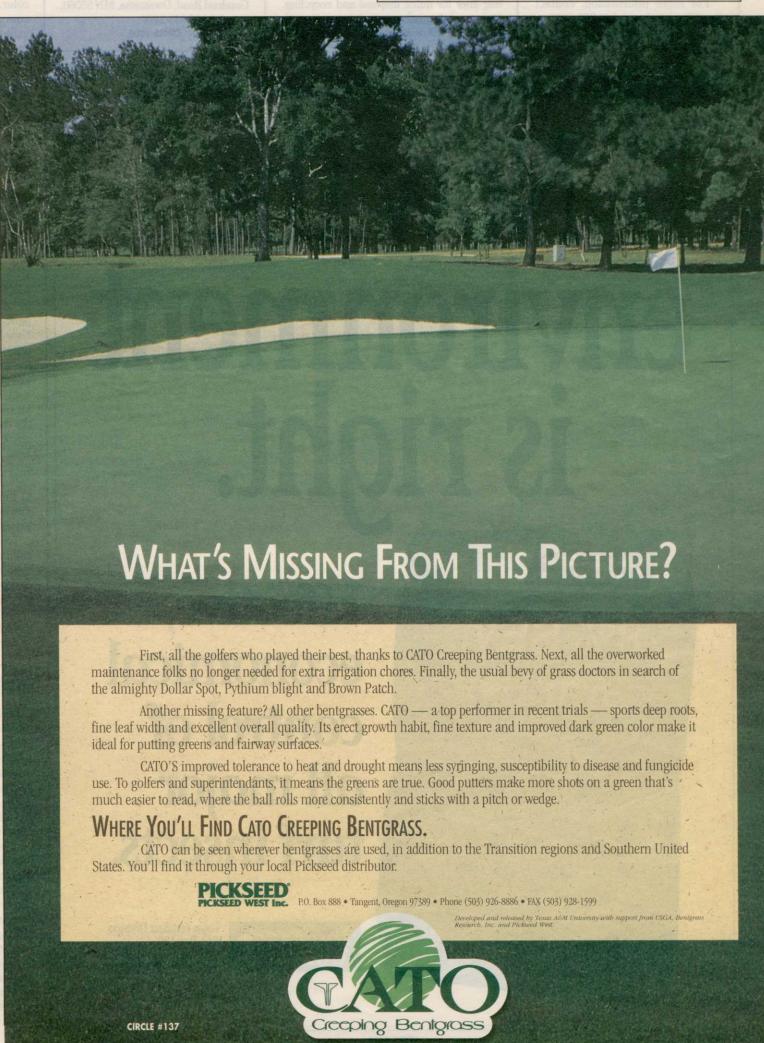
Before joining Foley-PLP, Roberts was vice president and GM of the aftermarket division of



before joining Armstrong Tire and Rubber 12 years ago.

Through a series of mergers, Armstrong and Valeo became affiliated and Roberts moved to Valeo in 1986.





SR adds Primavera

Seed Research of Oregon is pleased to announce the addition of Primavera seeded bermudagrass to its line of cutting-edge turf varieties.

Primavera was developed by Farmers Marketing to be fine textured, darker green, and adapted to a more varied range of climatic conditions than previously available varieties. Seed Research recently purchased the exclusive marketing rights and plans to distribute Primavera throughout the south, and as far north as Baltimore and Kansas City.

For more information, contact Seed Research at 1-800-253-5766.

CIRCLE #301

Mini Bulk packaging

Growth Products has just introduced the latest in packaging for its professional liquid fertilizers, micronutrients and natural organic products.

The new Mini Bulk package holds 275 gallons and fits on a standard 48-inch x 40-inch pallet; a solution to the ever annoying problem of how to dispose of 55 gallon drums or containers.

Each Mini Bulk comes equipped with an easy-access side-dispensing valve that can be completely emptied by gravity and is designed to drain every last drop. When the Mini Bulk is emptied it can be broken down into a corrugated box and polyethylene bag liner for quick disposal and recycling. For more information and pricing on Growth Products fertilizers call 800-648-7626.

CIRCLE #303

Gandy's core aerator

The Gandy Core Aerator-60 is a professional Category I, 3-point hitch aeration tool designed with independent dual-wheel coring heads which independently follow the ground contour. With its 5-foot aerating width, the CA-60 is built for use on golf courses.

The Gandy Core Aerator-34 is a pull type unit with a coring width of 34-inches, ideal for use with small or medium-size tractors or utility vehicles. For transport, the CA-34's wheels lift into place by hand operated levers. For more information write Gandy Co., 528 Gandrud Road, Owatonna, MN 55060, or call 1-800-443-2476.

CIRCLE #304

Yuma dwarf Bermuda from Pennington

Pennington Seed, Inc. has announced release of Yuma Dwarf Seeded Bermudagrass. Yuma was developed by Judy Breede with Innovative Turf Research. The rights to the variety were acquired by Pennington Seed from Starborne Seed, Inc., the successor to Innovative Turf Research.

Yuma is a dwarf cold tolerant bermudagrass designed to be lower growing and have a finer textured appearance than currently marketed seeded bermudagrass. Trials for Plant Variety Protection data show Yuma to be superior in color, texture, and turf density to other commercially available varieties. The variety's superior cold tolerance allows it to be used well above the current bermudagrass area of the United States.

Certified production fields are now planted. Commercial quantities of seed will be available late in the summer of 1994. Limited quantities of seed are available this spring. For more information, contact Pennington at P.O. Box 290, Madison, Ga., 30650; or call 1-800-277-1412.

CIRCLE #305

TMI unveils Trueline bent

Turf Merchants (TMI) has announced the availability of Trueline Creeping Bentgrass. Trueline was developed through years of inter-crossing the best bentgrass plants from collections of clones from Oregon, Washington, Maryland, New Jersey New York and other locations. Selection criteria included turf performance, dark green color, uniformity in leaf texture and growth habit, and resistance to diseases.

Initially, the intended use for Trueline is for overseeding dormant Bermuda turf in the transition and warm-season zones. Trials at the University of Arizona showed Trueline to transition back to Bermuda earlier than even Poa Trivs. Tests at the university have also shown that mixtures of Poa Triv/creeping bentgrass out-performed turf trials of monostands of Poa Trivialis.

Trueline exhibited exceptional winter color and is recommended for mixing with cypress poa trivialis because of its inherent dark genetic colors and ease of transitioning greens back to bermudagrass.

For more information, contact TMI at 1-800-421-1735.

CIRCLE #302

Radio choices from Inwave

Inwave, a direct marketer of communications equipment, recently made available a catalog of its best-selling two-way radios and accessories. The Janesville, Wis. company has mailed 800,000 catalogs since

its September 20, 1993, premier mailing.

The current catalog adds more vendors and offers new low pricing on products from Motorola, Ericsson GE, Icom, and Ritron. Also new is the comprehensive radio chart that allows readers to compare at a glance the features of every radio in the catalog.

In addition to the products in the catalog, Inwave sells more than 3500 communications products, including cellular and paging equipment. Inwave has a large inventory, ships most merchandise within 24 hours of receiving an order, and provides thorough technical support to its customers. Call 1-800-304-1000 to obtain a catalog, or 1-800-304-1003 for technical assistance.

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4-8 — World Scientific Congress of Golf in St. Andrews, Scotland. Contact World Scientific Congress of Golf in the UK at 0334-

24-26 — Texas Turfgrass Seminar in Arlington. Contact 806-354-8447.

31-Aug. 2 — Georgia GCSA Summer Conference at Callaway Gardens Resort. Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.

August

16 — Wisconsin Turfgrass Field Day in Madison. Contact Dr. Frank Rossi at 608-262-1490.

24 - Turf Talk '94 in Chandler, Ariz. Contact Garden West at 602-233-2966.

September

20-22 - Virginia Tech Turf and Landscape Field Days in Blacksburg, Va. Contact J.R. Hall III at 703-231-9736

October

29-Nov. 2 - Georgia GCSA Annual Meeting in Savannah. Contact Karen White at 706-769-4076.

November

6-9 — 15th Annual International Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference in Atlanta. Contact 703-573-3551.

11-12 - Golf Course Expo in Orlando, Fla. Industry trade show and conference for superintendents, managers, owners and developers of public-access golf courses. Contact the Golf Course News Conference Group at 207-846-0600

18-20 - National Golf Foundation Golf Summit '94 in Phoenix. Contact 407-744-

Leslie commentary

Continued from page 10

times have less impact on our society than the stories behind the less-weighty headlines. Along this vein, any coverage of the Black Pages was buried in the back of your daily newspaper a month or so ago.

If the May issue's revelation on Potty Parity isn't enough to cause a hot breeze of premonition, the Black Pages may lurk around the corner in your future.

First remember, it was not long ago that the Shoal Creek mud was slung. The private country club in Birmingham, Ala., had no African-American members. African-Americans, whites — the whole world, for that matter — damned the club from here to Sunday for its discrimination.

Today, those same African-Americans are stepping into the old shoes of Those Dreaded Discriminators. The Black Pages is their answer to the Yellow Pages of your friendly telephone company. While the Yellow Pages list all businesses, the Black Pages list only those owned by African-Americans.

Is this discrimination against white, yellow and red people? What if you are a (ughh) "mixed breed"?

Would Dr. Martin Luther King have joined Shoal Creek? I don't know. But I feel he would be very upset by the Black Pages. He wanted all people to transcend physical superficialities. This sort of thing only puts up more walls of division.

And if we don't need it in golf, we certainly don't need it in society in general. Indeed, the American Declaration of Inde-

Continued on next page

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Leslie commentary

Continued from previous page

pendence and the Judeo-Christian religion calls us to be "one people."

Henry Louis Gates, chairman of black studies at Harvard University, agrees. Do you?

When Dr. Noel Jackson spoke to Maine superintendents on Pythiam damage, he said when Pythium hits, it leaves bentgrass but kills poa annua. "How can we get it?" came the hue and cry.

Of course, they didn't want to know; but, if you water abundantly you create conditions for Pythium, whose 35 species are some of the fastest-growing fungi in turf.

San Francisco Golf Club's Maynard Garrison, a senior citizen, told American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) members: "We have few opportunities for exercise. Please take the lead to get rid of golf buggies. They are the bane of the existence of all golfers."

From Dr. James Watson, retired Toro executive, speaking to the ASGCA: "By the year 2050 the greatest export from the U.S. to Mexico will be water - not oil, minerals, or anything else."

New American Society of Golf Course Architects President Don Knott told members: "Stanley Thomson was absolutely correct when he commented that designing golf courses without having studied the links of the British Isles is akin to a divinity student

who has never studied the Bible."

Serving the public-access market, because that's where the action is

Golf Course Expo, Nov. 11-12, to focus on the golf industry's fastest-growing market

By HAL PHILLIPS

olf Course Expo will take place later this year. You probably have a lot of questions about it. Let's take them one at a time, shall we?

What: Golf Course Expo - An national trade exhibition and educational conference aimed at superintendents, managers, owners and developers in the public-access golf market: daily-fee, resort and municipal courses. Show registration is free.

Where: The Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Fla. America's favorite vacation spot, business venue and home to some of the nation's top publicaccess golf courses (You've probably heard of the Magic Kingdom — some call the plethora of fine Disney courses the Magic Linkdom).

When: Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11 and 12 — Timely for you southern superintendents, who have finished overseeding but have yet to experience the winter rush; perfect for northern attendees, most of whom have closed their operations for the season. The weekend time slot is ideal for those of you who choose to bring your families to Orlando and stay the long, Veteran's Day weekend

Who: Golf Course News, the source for business information in the golf course industry, will manage the show. The three-track education conference - featuring Agronomy, Management and Development programs — is co-



The Orange County Convention Center

sponsored by Golf Course News and the National Golf Foundation. Why: ... Good question.

The private golf club market has been well served by industry trade shows over the years, but the same cannot be said for the those of you in the public-access sector. Yet public golf is the largest, fastest-growing portion of the golf market.

According to the NGF, there are 14,654 golf courses up and running in the United States, 9,733 of which are daily-fee, municipal or resort: public-access. That's two-thirds of the golf course stock, and the percentage is getting larger with each passing day.

How do we know this?

Well, of the 1,360 golf courses opened between 1990 and 1993, 80 percent are public-access.

The NGF also reports there are 671 courses currently in some stage of construction. Of these 671 projects, only 109 are scheduled to open as private clubs. A full 84 percent are public-access projects.

Further, while private courses are being developed less often, more

and more existing private courses are opening their doors to public play. Why? Memberships are dwindling as legislation has eliminated the ability to deduct dues and business meals from taxable

More important, however, has been the onset and increasing popularity of upscale daily-fee courses, which offer private conditions at public prices. Developers see there is more money to be made in public-access golf. Financial institutions agree - that's why public-access projects were able to secure financing in the midst of recession. As the nation's economy turns upward, this trend will continue.

"Everything at Golf Course Expo will be geared toward the public access golf course," said

THE PARTICULARS

 Conference Registration: \$295

Trade Show

Registration: No charge Hotel Accomodations:

Golf Course Expo has designated two official hotels The Clarion Plaza, adjacent to the Convention Center, with a special rate of \$95 per night; and The Peabody, situated across the street from the Convention Center, with a special rate of

• Booth space: \$10.75 per square foot, before July 15; \$12.50 after July 15.

\$145.

Charles von Brecht, publisher of Golf Course News.

"The daily-fee, resort and municipal markets are growing at four times the rate of the private golf course market, but there's no national event that brings vendors in contact with buyers. We believe that vendors have had problems reaching the public-access decision-makers, and Golf Course Expo will help solve those prob-

"By the same token," said von Brecht, "we also believe buying decisions at public-access courses are often team efforts. Whereas superintendents have a great deal of autonomy at private clubs, buying decisions at public-access courses are more often reached by combinations by superintendents, owners, club managers, directors of golf, even park & rec administrators.

"That's why we've created an education program with three tracks: One for superintendents, one for owners and managers, and one for developers.'

The Agronomy Program will feature sessions led by the United States Golf Association Green Section, members of the university research community and certified golf course superintendents. Subject matter will concentrate on the unique needs of turf managers in the public-access market. For example, a busy daily-fee course does 50,000 rounds each year, calling for treatments far different from a private course that handles only 20,000.

The Development Program, led by the Jupiter, Fla.-based National Golf Foundation, will concentrate on the issues most important to creating a profitable golf industry business venture. Topics will include securing municipal and daily-fee financing; conducting sound market research and defining what niche your course will fill; and locating projects in demand-driven markets, not those already crowded with competing courses.

The Management Program will be led by Golf Course News in the tradition of Public Golf, the highly successful conference for owners and managers held each year by GCN since 1992. Managing a public-access facility requires a knowledge of agronomy, retailing, hospitality, marketing and advertising - all of which will be addressed during the Management Program at Golf Course Expo.

For more information, call the Golf Course Expo Hotline at 207-846-0600, ext. 248.



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Whether your challenge is a deadline, a tee, a green, a fairway, a rough, or a bunker surround, we have a blend that fits your needs.

We understand the variety of problems you face because we have spent a great deal of time listening to golf course superintendents. As a result, Tee & Green Sod offers the most complete product line



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RTC bid conference

Continued from page 3

The bankruptcy court required last summer's Phase 1, open-cry auction because of the high visibility of the six properties involved - Kiawah Island (S.C.) Resort; Palm Beach (Fla.) Polo & Country Club; Carmel (Calif.) Valley Ranch; La Quinta and PGA West, Palm Springs, Calif.; and Mission Hills Country Club, Mirage, Calif.

Sealed bids will be used for the Phase 2 properties. Generally, since interested parties in high-priced properties base their bids on extensive homework rather than the incremental bidding that takes place at open-cry auctions, sealed bids often result in higher purchase prices, according to RTC spokeswoman Felisa Neuringer.

That should please taxpayers who are recouping some of the costs of the savings and loan bailout through the RTC's auction of former Landmark properties.

RTC developed Derived Investment Values (DIV) for all the Landmark properties. Based on projected 10-year cash flows, DIVs reflect a rough estimate of market value.

The properties to be auctioned off later this summer have the following DIVs -Oak Tree CC, \$20 million; Oak Tree GC, \$4 million; Belle Terre CC, \$7 million; Oak Harbour Yacht & CC, \$10 million; Oak Valley GC and community, \$124 million.

Advanced Applicator is a Cost-Effective Solution for Spot Treatment.

The Pro-Ap[™] is the only hose-end, liquid siphoning applicator specifically designed for golf course use. The refillable Pro-Ap container holds one quart of Hydro-Wet RTA, the "Ready-To-Apply" wetting agent formula.

Hydro-Wet RTA alters water's behavior while interacting with water repellent surfaces found in the soil. The superior ingredients in

Hydro-Wet RTA are attracted to organic soil coatings known to produce hydrophobic conditions. The result is increased water infiltration, absorption, and reduced severity of localized dry spot.

The Pro-Ap makes accuracy easy. Its adjustable metering dial lets the applicator choose nine additive settings or syringe only. And there's no need to water-in because the

Pro-Ap's needle valve meters just the right amount of Hydro-Wet into the water

For more information on the Pro-Ap application system, circle the number below, or call Kalo, Inc., toll-free: 1-800-255-5196.

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Convenient, cost-effective Pro-Ap delivers consistent, measured quantities of Hydro-Wet RTA—treats 1,000 sq. ft. in less than one minute.

Simple Test Identifies Hydrophobic Soils.

It is nearly impossible to visually identify hydrophobic soils, but there are several simple tests for determining their presence. The following was included in a 1989 article by Keith Karnok and Kevin Tucker of the University of Georgia.

"This test . . . simply involves the placement of small drops of water along the length of intact soil cores at

1/2 inch intervals. The length of time (seconds required for the droplet to penetrate into the core) is recorded. Penetration times greater than 10 to 15 seconds usually indicate a hydrophobic condition."

(The average water droplet penetration times from healthy areas is usually less than 3 seconds.)

Golf Course Management, August 1989.

CIRCLE #145



Hydro-Wet RTA is the proven turf wetting agent formulated for application with the Pro-Ap hose-end applicator.

Getting the Drop on **Localized Dry Spot.**

In mid-summer, golf courses turn into battle grounds as superintendents fight to maintain those lush fairways and greens. The battle heats up even more when you have to deal with increased traffic, changing attitudes toward the use of chemicals and restrictions on water use.

One of the scars of this battle is localized dry spot (LDS). What is most perplexing is that LDS symptoms may occur even after normal irrigation.1

LDS is most prevalent on greens built mainly of sand and established to bentgrass. It's caused by fungi which leave a non-organic coating on sand particles. Once soil moisture levels begin to decrease, water runs off the turf, leaving the soil dry and powdery. This hydrophobic condition makes rewetting

difficult. If left untreated, LDS can result in turfgrass

Short and long term management practices to minimize the severity of localize dry spots include: syringing, coring and the use of wetting agents.2 Wetting agents can reduce LDS by improving the ability of water to bond with these sand and soil particles. They can also increase the wettability of thatch.3 Preventive applications give the best results, but curative applications can also be effective.

Karnok, Keith and Tucker, Kevin (University of Georgia), "The Cause And Control Of Localized Dry Spots On Bentgrass Greens," Golf Course Management, August 1989. ²Danneberger, Karl, PhD (Ohio State University—Columbus), "Those summertime blues: Localized dry spots," Grounds Maintenance, May

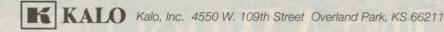
³Carrow, Robert, PhD (University of Georgia), "Understanding Wetting Agents," Golf Course Management, June 1989.

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Cure Dry Spots.

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