

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 5, NUMBER 6
JUNE 1994 • \$4.50

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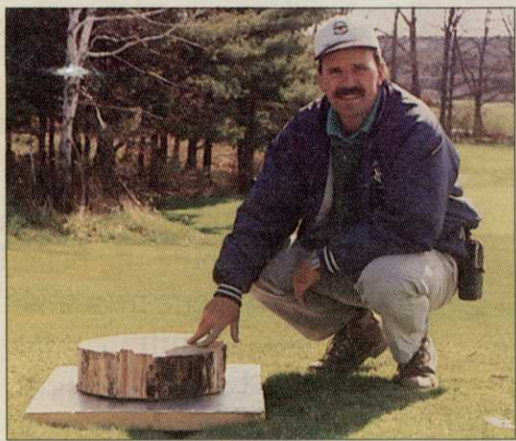
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Kevin Ross of Falmouth (Maine) Country Club displays his Styrofoam innovation for protecting irrigation heads from the rigors of northern winters. See "On The Green," page 14.

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Off the market

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

By HAL PHILLIPS

Whether or not you agree 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 mercury-based 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-

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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 many as seven golf courses along Interstate 64 between



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 crop.

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 antedate 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-, heat- and insect-resistance and putting them into single [seed] populations."

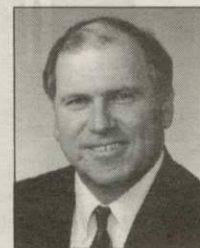
The Penncross-PennLinks-Penneagle line out of Penn State has dominated the bentgrass market for three decades. But "suddenly, just within the last year more new bentgrasses have been released than

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BETWEEN A ROCK...

The geologically striking 13th hole at Aubrey 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.



Jim Scott

Jim Scott takes the reins at NGCOA

By PETER BLAIS

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

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Williamsburg and Richmond. Chesapeake Corp. of Richmond and The Legends Group of Myrtle Beach tentatively plan four courses, a residential subdivision and possibly a pari-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

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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

Richmond, 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.

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.



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