

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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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."

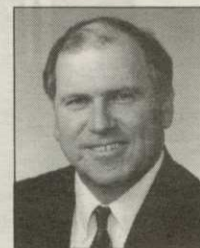
The Penncross-PennLinks-Penneagle line out of Penn State has dominated the bentgrass market for three decades. But "suddenly, just within the last year more new bentgrasses have been released than

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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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NGCOA

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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

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 Rumpy, 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, Roch-

ester, 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.

Seeing double can speed up play!

The problem with placing yardage markers in the center of fairways is that most golfers rarely hit the ball down the middle. When you add the fact that distances to the green can vary dramatically from one side of a fairway to the other — especially on doglegs — it's easy to see why doubling up with our affordable

Yardage Marker System makes sense. ♦ Each pair of bright, highly visible PVC Distance Markers features colorful decals that specify distances of 100, 150, 200 or 250 yards. Since they slip into

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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!

Our new Yardage Marker System works both sides of the fairway to help players judge distances faster and more accurately.

Ocean Course

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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."

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