

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Some birds you want, some you don't. Learn how to attract purple martins and get rid of geese 16, 70



COLLEGES TAKE SPIRITED RESEARCH STANCE

Spring break is fast approaching, but the nation's collegiate turf programs continue to produce. Working golf course laboratories will soon be realities at Clemson, UGeorgia and Penn State. Meanwhile, superintendents are scrambling to attract the best turf scholars. See pages 15, 21-23.

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Mortality study raises questions, eyebrows

By HAL PHILLIPS

DALLAS—Golf course superintendents were 79 percent more likely to contract large-intestinal cancer and 36 percent more likely to contract lung cancer than the public at large, according to phase-one findings of a University of Iowa mortality study commissioned by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Death certificates of 618 former GCSAA members — who died between 1970 and 1992 — were gathered as part of the research, conducted by Dr. Burton Kross,

UI associate professor of preventive medicine and mental health. Of the 618 deaths, 179 were cancer related.

"Because this is a statistical study, you can't establish any cause-and-effect relationship from the data," said Kross, who presented the study's findings at February's GCSAA conference in Dallas. "Results of the mortality study provide GCSAA with a scientific basis to encourage stop-smoking programs and improved pesticide-handling practices among its members.

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GCSAA WRAP-UP

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Golf Cars: Who has the purchasing authority?

By PETER BLAIS & HAL PHILLIPS

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Wine, lockers, E-Z-GO, dinnerware, clubhouse architects, Club Car, chocolate mints, table linen, Yamaha, accounts software, tennis court contractors, Melex.

And so it goes, as one strolls the aisles and gazes into the booths at the Club Managers Association of America annual exposition here.

This is the third national trade show that golf car and utility vehicle manufacturers regularly attend. Those companies are also a major presence at the annual superintendents' and golf professionals' shows. They are easily the most visible segment of the golf industry to attend all three.

Just who is responsible for ultimately deciding what brand of golf cars to buy?

"This is something we've struggled to define since I

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PUBLIC ENEMY #1

Mole crickets cause more damage to Southeastern golf courses than any other pest. How do you kill 'em? Superintendents and scientists — including the University of Florida's Dr. Howard Frank — are experimenting with traditional and biological weapons. See special report, pages 24-26.

Rohm & Haas wins Dimension sweepstakes

By HAL PHILLIPS

ST. LOUIS — We have a winner.

After months of speculation and negotiation, Monsanto has signed a letter of intent to sell Dimension turf herbicide and other products in its worldwide pyridine family of chemistry to Philadelphia-based Rohm and Haas Co.

The sale is expected to be completed by mid-year, according to James Budzynski, Monsanto's product director for dithiopyr, the active ingredient in Dimension. No

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Dr. James Watson

Architects honor Dr. Watson with '94 Ross Award

By MARK LESLIE

"Surprised but delighted" at his selection, turfgrass research and management pioneer Dr. James

R. Watson will receive the American Society of Golf Course Architects' (ASGCA) 1994 Donald Ross Award.

A vice president and agronomist with The Toro Co. who has been working with golf course architects on turf problems for more than 40 years, Watson will accept the award at the annual Ross Award Dinner on April 18, at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. The banquet will highlight the society's annual meeting.

Only the second agronomist chosen for the award in its 19-year history, Watson explained: "Their [architects] job isn't finished with the design. They still have to oversee construction of the golf course. A lot of the work I've done has involved soils for putting greens, modification of fairways and management of the golf course from the turfgrass standpoint.

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The stately 18th at Minisceongo Golf Club in Rockland, N.Y. This Roy Case design opens in June.

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Robert Hook photo