

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

Of Surfers & Seals

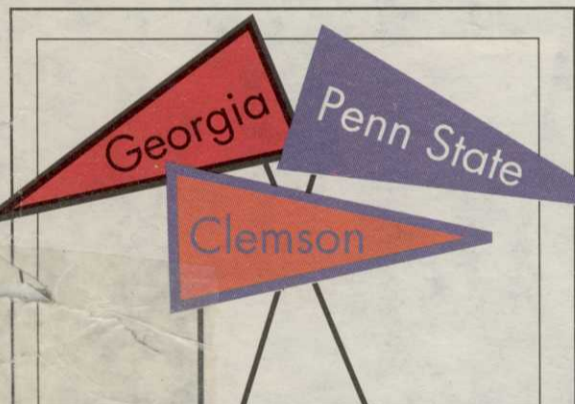
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Bye, Bye Birdie

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.

New Course Listings Page 45

Robert Hook photo

Rohm & Haas acquires rights to Dimension

Continued from page 1

terms were disclosed.

The bid procedure was essentially blind, as suitors lined up and made Monsanto their best offers.

"We had a high level of confidence, but we didn't know we had won until they called and said so," explained Bob Gordon, product manager for Turf & Ornamental at Rohm and Haas. "It's an excellent fit for us. That's why we pursued it so aggressively. We're very excited."

Dimension is currently sold commercially for weed control in turf markets in the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia. Golf course superintendents use it for both post-emergent and pre-emergent control of crabgrass, goosegrass, fox-tail, spurge and oxalis.

Other products involved in the sale include thiazopyr, a new herbicide used for control of weeds in orchards and olive groves in Spain and for tree fruit and forestry uses in South Africa; and thifluzamide, a fungicide in development for use in a number of crops.

"Monsanto's difficult decision to divest itself of this chemistry is based on the desire to focus on products that have technical fits in key agricultural crops such as corn, soybeans and wheat," said Budzynski. "Monsanto will develop these agricultural products aggressively in the turf and ornamental markets, as well as where they have a technical fit."

Gordon explained the acquisition of Dimension is merely one aspect of a strategic purchase.

"We didn't just buy a turf product," he said. "We bought a chemistry which has many other applications."

"We don't compete in the row crop marketplace. We're niche marketers. We go after specialty markets. That's why I believe this is such a good fit for Rohm and Haas."

Ransomes shake-up

Continued from page 59

any joint efforts. The staff reduction program has been underway since Dec. 1, Wilson said. Several new people have joined the firm, including Ransomes PLC Chairman of the Board John Clements, former chairman of several large British firms.

Scotts funds S&R internship program

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Students from around the United States will have an opportunity to earn while they learn, thanks to a new program created by a partnership between the O.M. Scott & Sons Co. and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Scholarship & Research (S&R).

The O.M. Scotts Scholarship Program will offer students summer internships with Scotts corporate and field sales staff and on golf courses throughout the country. Students who successfully

complete their internships will then be eligible for special Scotts/GCSAA collegiate scholarship.

To fund the program, Scotts will provide grants totaling more than \$150,000 over the next three years. The gift is the largest ever made to GCSAA S&R by a corporation.

To find out more about the new O.M. Scotts Scholarship Program call GCSAA's development department at 913/841-2240.

Complete details and applications will be available in early spring.



The Cochise Course at Desert Mountain, site of The Tradition.

SCOTTS TO SPONSOR TRADITION

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Scotts Company has been named the presenting sponsor of The Tradition, one of the four major tournaments on the Senior PGA Tour. The Tradition will be held March 28-April 3, and will be broadcast nationally on ESPN. While it has long supplied product to golf course superintendents, Scotts also sees the dual opportunity to address the home lawn-care market. "We view this as an excellent opportunity to reach millions of consumers during spring buying season," explained Theodore J. Host, Scotts president and CEO.

IF YOU HAVEN'T USED BARRICADE YET, LISTEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE.

Bill Womac
Superintendent
Dunwoody Country Club
Dunwoody, Georgia

"Barricade's extra length of control is an advantage to us in the South, especially with our long, hot growing season. Overall, Barricade has proven to be more cost-effective for us than other preemergence herbicides we've tried. We plan to use more next year."

Steve Carr
Superintendent
Pocasset Golf Club
Pocasset, Massachusetts

"Barricade makes it easy for us to fine tune our control program, as the length of control is determined by the rate used. We've found that one application is all it takes to keep us crabgrass free until the start of cold weather."

Barricade

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The Precision Performer.



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