

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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Action in Asia-Pacific

Golf Asia '94 is history. Architects are busy (page 42) but questions about the show's future remain 59



TPC SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Gary Myers (right), seen here with Tournament Players Club Director of Maintenance Cal Roth, has been named the top superintendent in the TPC system. See page 20.

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Survey: Supers applying fewer, safer pesticides

By HAL PHILLIPS

More than 60 percent of golf course superintendents surveyed by the Gallup Organization indicated they have altered their maintenance practices compared to three years ago, citing pressure from government regulation, economic factors and environmental concerns.

The 1994 Sandoz National Environmental Poll, conducted by Gallup, contacted a random sample of 2,050 professionals who apply pest control products: farmers, roadside vegetation managers, lawn care workers, pest control operators, mosquito district managers and small animal veterinarians. This year's biennial survey included, for the first time, golf course superintendents.

Question: Do people in your industry

Continued on page 61

Sandoz National Environmental Poll 1994

Superintendents Responding

.....
Compared to five years ago, are you making fewer applications of pest control products?

Yes — 61%
No — 36%

.....
Do people in your industry use safer pest control products when available?

Always — 70%
Sometimes — 27%
Not Usually — 2%
Never — 1%

.....
Compared to three years ago, are you doing things differently regarding use of pest control products?

Yes — 67%
No — 30%

Bringing new meaning to 'earth moving'

By HAL PHILLIPS

GLENDALE, Calif. — While some golfers claim their home course plays differently each time out, Shoal Canyon Golf Course almost certainly will.

Currently under construction, Shoal Canyon — an American Golf Corp. project designed by Williams, Gill & Associates — isn't your typical 18-hole, short course built on a mountain-top landfill. Portions of the 60-acre site are sinking at rates of up to six feet per year.

The recent Los Angeles earthquake dropped one green down a full foot overnight, according to Dale Siemens, president of Fresno-based Daylen Inc., which is

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Pesticide fate model may be inaccurate

By DR. MIKE KENNA

GRIFFIN, Ga. — Researchers here at the Georgia Agriculture Experiment Station have suggested that one of the mathematical models used by environmental regulators and scientists to predict the fate of pesticides will need a major overhaul before it accurately represents what happens on golf course turf.

"Results indicate that the GLEAMS model, with the defined parameters of our study, overestimated the actual values received from lysimeters for the potential of 2,4-D to move through putting green root zones," reported Dr. Al Smith, University of Georgia.

The GLEAMS (Groundwater Loading Effects of Agriculture Management Systems) mathematical model is commonly used to help identify chemical and soil properties, as well as plant and meteorological factors influencing the transport

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THE NEW, CAREFREE ATTITUDE AT TELLURIDE

The newly formed management firm, Carefree Resorts, is upgrading its three facilities: The Peaks at Telluride (above), Carmel Valley Ranch and The Boulders. Carefree executives indicate they are actively seeking new additions in Mexico, Hawaii and the Caribbean. For story, see page 54.

Pooling results in huge workers' comp savings

By PETER BLAIS

Some Ohio course operators are enjoying an 83-percent reduction in their workers compensation insurance costs because of legislation passed in the Ohio general assembly and the efforts of the state's golf course owners association.

Bills authorizing the pooling of similar businesses for insurance purposes have

been authorized in 40 states, according to Charles Freutel, national sales manager with the Frank Gates Service Co., a research and benefits consulting firm. This grouping allows members to obtain lower workers' compensation rates than they could individually.

Golf course owners associations in Ohio and South Carolina have taken advan-

tage of the legislation to offer a reduced-rate program for their members, Freutel said. The Pennsylvania state association is considering such a program, he added.

"There may be others out there as well that I'm just not familiar with," said Freutel, whose company reviews applicants for the Ohio Golf Course Owners

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GolfCorp adds four new executives to growing corporate staff

ClubCorp. division looks to add 25 courses by '97

DALLAS—GolfCorp has added four new members to its management team as it seeks to acquire 25 new golf facilities by 1997.

Jack Lupton has joined GolfCorp as chief financial officer from its parent company, Club Corporation International (ClubCorp).

Also signing on with GolfCorp are Bob Bascher, senior vice president development; C.J. McDaniel, senior vice president marketing;

and Mike Ussery, regional manager/Texas properties.

Lupton has 15 years with ClubCorp. He served with its financial subsidiary, Financial Management Co. (FMC), as senior vice president, vice president of accounting and divisional controller of city clubs.

Bascher was appointed just prior to GolfCorp's recent purchase of The Royal Golf Course at Queen's Harbour Yacht and



Jack Lupton



Bob Bascher



C.J. McDaniel



Mike Ussery

Country Club in Jacksonville, Fla. He oversees GolfCorp's three Florida facilities and will move to Dallas in May to lead strategic planning and new club develop-

ment. Prior to GolfCorp he was with Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co.

McDaniel will direct advertising and communications pro-

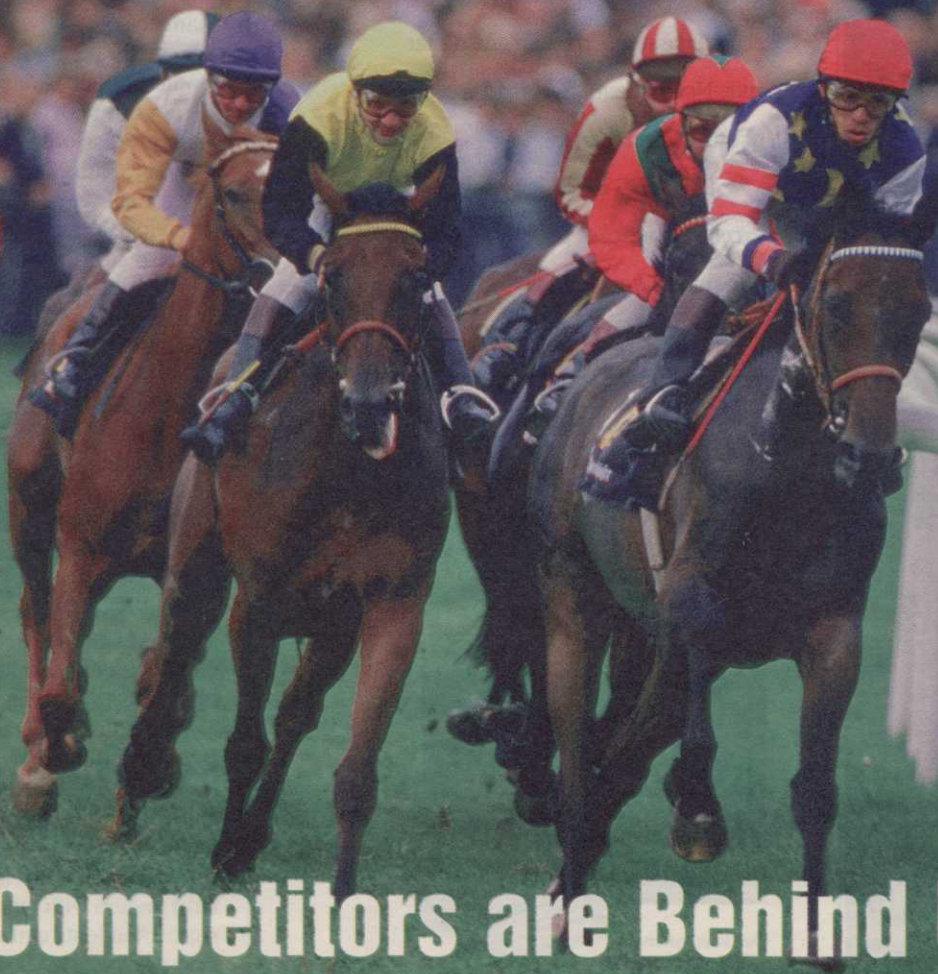
grams for GolfCorp's 30 nationwide facilities.

He was formerly vice president with sportswear manufacturer Bobby Jones International.

Ussery will oversee GolfCorp's seven Texas facilities and be responsible for generating new acquisition and management opportunities.

Prior to GolfCorp, he was owner of Dallas-based Great Southwest Golf Properties and headed his own real estate/development firm.

When it Comes to Performance...



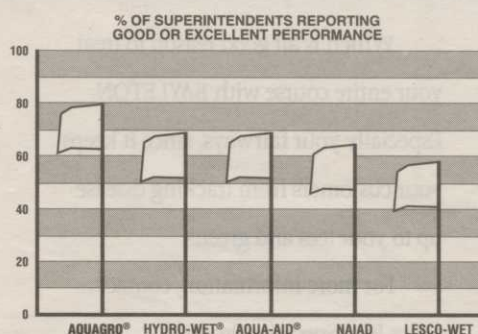
Our Competitors are Behind Us 100%.

Since 1954 when AquaGro® was introduced to the nation's golf courses, hardly a year has passed that some company didn't come along with a *new* wetting agent. Most products have vanished like the morning dew they claimed to control. A few brands have managed to demonstrate their residual effectiveness, but year after year AquaGro remains the hands down favorite among golf course superintendents...because on the golf course performance counts.

The Top Performer

Don't just take our word for it. According to a survey of golf course superintendents conducted last winter by the Center For Golf Course Management's Market Research Division, AquaGro remains the most popular brand by a large margin. CGCM found that more AquaGro users are satisfied with the product than users of any other brand of soil wetting agent.

To our delight not only did AquaGro receive the highest satisfaction rating, it also received the lowest "poor" rating. Only 1.5% of the superintendents responded that they were dissatisfied with its performance. Among the leading competitors 8.1% of the Naiad users, 7.6% of the Lesco-Wet users, 6.1% of the Aqua-Aid® users and 3.7% of the Hydro-Wet® users rated the performance of their wetting agent as "poor".



We sincerely thank the nearly 1000 superintendents who participated in this survey, and the thousands of loyal AquaGro users who vote each year with their budgets.

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In addition to being the most popular soil wetting agent on the market, AquaGro is the only one carrying a money-back performance guarantee.

AquaGro is available in Liquid, Spreadable and Pellet formulations. Aquatrols also offers the Little Squirt and PPM Unit precision irrigation injectors, the Advantage™ pellet applicator, the Dilute 'n Shoot™ hose-end proportioner and the Dose-It™ portable injector.

If you're not already using AquaGro, it's time you discovered why the first wetting agent is still the best. AquaGro is available from your local Aquatrols turf products distributor.



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Workers' comp

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Association (OGCOA) program.

The average golf facility in the OGCOA program pays 72 cents per \$100 of payroll for workers' comp coverage on course maintenance employees. Under normal circumstances, they would pay \$4.23 per \$100 of payroll, according to OGCOA Executive Secretary Allan Whaling.

For the average course, that's a savings of \$4,000 to \$5,000 annually, Whaling said. The 120 golf facilities taking advantage of this year's program saved a total of approximately \$600,000. Whaling estimated those numbers will rise to 153 golf facilities and a total savings of \$800,000 in the 1994-95 fiscal year.

"I can't imagine why anyone who is eligible for the program wouldn't take advantage of it," said Chuck Bennell, owner of Tam O'Shanter Golf Club in Canton and a past association president. "We save several thousand dollars a year."

"The savings are important," Whaling added. "But even more important is that courses are appointing someone to be a safety officer and safety programs are being incorporated that make golf courses a safer place to work."

Ohio association members are invited to submit their safety records to Frank Gates. Based on that information, Gates and the OGCOA board of directors decide who will be accepted into the program. Golf facilities with no or few workplace accidents generally get the nod.

"Gates helps us [course owners] put together the paperwork, deal with worker safety issues, develop safety manuals and work with government regulations," Bennell said. "They teach our managers to train employees how to work more safely and comply with the law."

"As manager of a family-run golf course, it seems as though you often spend more time trying to satisfy government agencies than trying to satisfy customers. A program like this gives you the time to refocus on your customers."

Any OGCOA member can apply for the program. Joining the association costs \$75 annually for nine-hole facilities and \$125 for courses with 18 holes or more.

Private courses can also join. Whaling estimated there are 660 Ohio facilities eligible for OGCOA membership.